

**April 25**

**Mid-Pentecost; The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark**

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**GREAT VESPERS**

**KATHISMA**

*Blessed is the man...* is sung.

**AT PSALM 140**

*In Tone 1*

8. By Your death, O Christ, You destroyed the dominion of death;  
by Your glorious rising, You gave life to mankind!  
You raised the human race with Yourself by Your condescension,  
so we sing to You in grateful praise,  
celebrating the feast of Your radiant Resurrection on the third day,  
for the midpoint of these precious days has shone for us!  
Benefactor of our souls, Jesus, the Giver of life!

7. Before Your precious Cross and Passion, almighty Christ,  
You performed most glorious miracles among the peoples.  
As it is written, in the midst of the feast of the law, You cried:  
If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me  
and draw the drink of divine water and life!  
I grant the water of life and power and wisdom to all,  
for this I have willed to become Man, as the Lover of mankind!

6. Seeing me paralyzed on the bed of my sins,  
all-merciful Christ,  
You took pity on my useless limbs;  
You willed to become a Man for me,  
flooding me with the great sea of Your love for mankind.  
You have come invisibly,  
raising me up as the paralytic of old,  
teaching me to run in the ways of Your commandments!  
Never permit me to depart from You, Saviour,  
as the people of the Hebrews abandoned You,  
even though they witnessed many miracles before Your Passion,  
our God, Who willingly suffered in the flesh for our sake!

5. Come, faithful, let us sing praises to Mark.  
He is the wise writer of the Gospel!  
The greatest of Egypt's cities heard his inspired words.  
Apostle, by your prayers and teachings,  
guide our lives in the way of peace!

4. You became a fellow-traveller of Paul, the chosen vessel.  
you accompanied him through all Macedonia;  
then you followed Peter to Rome.  
You were welcomed as his secretary and interpreter.  
But it was in Egypt, all-wise Mark,  
that you finished your course in a manner well-pleasing to God!

3. You gave life to barren souls,  
watering them with the radiant stream of your Gospel.  
Because of you, holy Mark,  
Alexandria rejoices with us today,  
celebrating your blessed memory!

2. Most blessed Mark,  
you drank from the fountain of delight;  
you became a river of peace, flowing from Eden,  
surrounding us as a sea of protection.  
The proclamation of your Gospel waters the face of the earth.  
By your divinely-inspired teaching the Church is established!

1. Most praised Apostle Mark,  
Moses once drowned the Egyptians in the sea,  
but you, wise one, have drawn them up from the depths of error!  
You lived with them, and showed them power,  
destroying their idols with your strong right arm!

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

Grace is poured out upon your lips,  
Apostle Mark.  
you became a shepherd of Christ's Church.  
You taught the sheep whom God endowed with reason  
to believe in the consubstantial Trinity, one Godhead!

*In Tone 2, Now...*

When You came to the Temple, O Christ, in the middle of the feast  
You taught the people, saying:  
Whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, he shall live.  
The Jews, Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes, were enraged and cried:  
Who is this Man to utter blasphemies?  
They did not understand that You are our God,  
glorified with the Father and the Spirit before the ages! Glory to You!

## READINGS

James 1:1-12

James 1:13-27

James 2:1-13

## APOSTICHA

*In Tone 1*

Mark, learned in divine wisdom,  
you became the pen of a skilful scribe,  
writing of Christ's life with inspired words.  
You clearly proclaim the good news of unending life!  
We beseech you: inscribe in the book of life  
the names of all those who glorify and praise your memory!

*Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!*

Mark, you are worthy of highest praise!  
You traversed the earth, preaching the Gospel of Christ!  
Like the sun, you enlightened men with the rays of faith,  
driving away the darkness of idolatry.  
Entreat Christ to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

*The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!*

Most blessed Apostle Mark,  
you preached to people bound by the madness of idolatry.  
Egypt's darkness was dispelled by the light of your words!  
Entreat Christ, whose Gospel you preached,  
to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

*In Tone 8, Glory...*

Come, all you faithful,  
let us praise Mark in psalms and hymns!  
He is the herald of heavenly mysteries and interpreter of the Gospel.  
He is a river of the spiritual paradise!  
He waters the earth with living streams,  
that it may bear fruit for Christ our God.  
Through his intercession,  
forgiveness and great mercy are granted to all!

*In Tone 3, Now...*

In the middle of the feast,  
let us glorify Him Who worked salvation in the midst of the earth!  
The Life was hanging on the Tree, between two thieves.  
He was silent with the one who blasphemed,  
but the one who believed heard: Today you will be with Me in Paradise!  
He descended into the tomb, destroying hell,  
and arose on the third day, saving our souls!

## **TROPARIA**

*In Tone 3*

Learning from Peter the chief apostle\* you too became an apostle of Christ,\* and shone on various lands like the sun.\* O blessed one, adornment of Alexandrians,\* through you Egypt was freed from deceit.\* For you are a pillar of light for the Church\* enlightening all with your teaching of the Good News.\* Therefore, we feast your memorial, O Mark divinely inspired.\* Ask God whom you preached to all/ to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

*In Tone 8, Glory... Now...*

At the mid-point of the Feast, O Saviour,\* water my thirsty soul with streams of true godliness;\* for You cried out to all: Let any who thirst, come to Me and drink.\* O Source of Life, Christ our God, glory to You!