

The 25th Day of April

✦ Commemoration of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

Evening Service

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Antiphon.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stikhera; 3 to the Feast, and

5 stikhera to the Evangelist, in Tone 1: *Special melody: “Joy of the ranks of heaven...”*

Let us worthily praise, O ye faithful, /
The writer of the divinely-uttered words /
And the great teacher of Egypt, crying out: /
By thy teachings and supplications O wise Mark, /
Cease not to direct our lives onto *the Good* path, ///
O thou Disciple of Christ. (*Twice*)

As a companion of Paul, the chosen vessel /
Thou didst travel with him through all Macedonia; /
And in Rome, as the disciple of Peter, /
Thou wast known for thy sweet narration /
And having suffered in a manner *well-pleasing* to God /
Thou didst repose in Egypt, O Mark, thou friend of Christ! (*Twice*)

Thou didst rejuvenate the dried *and withered* souls /
With the dewdrops of the Gospel, /
And today, O divine Mark, /
The city of Alexandria celebrates thy memory, ///
Venerating thy holy relics.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

As a shepherd of the Church of Christ, /
Grace flowed forth from thy lips, O Apostle Mark, /
Teaching thy rational sheep to believe in the Trinity /
One in Essence, in One Godhead.

Now and ever... of the Feast.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from the General Epistle of the James (1:1-12):

^{1:1}**J**ames, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes that are scattered abroad: Greetings. ²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into various temptations, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For let not that man suppose that he will

receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹For no sooner is the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. ¹²Blessèd is the man who endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

The Reading from the General Epistle of the James (1:13-27):

^{1:13}**L**et no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither does He tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵Then, when desire hath conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. ¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. ¹⁹So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore lay aside all filthiness and

overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²⁴For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, and goes his way, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one shall be blessed in what he does. ²⁶If any man among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is useless. ²⁷Religion pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

The Reading from the General Epistle of the James (2:1-13):

^{2:1}**M**y brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with

partiality. ²For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in

fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say unto him, “Sit thou here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “Stand thou there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” ⁴have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: Hath God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶But ye have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? ⁸If ye fulfill the royal law

according to the Scripture, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,” ye do well; ⁹but if ye show partiality, ye commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹For He who said, “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” also said, “Thou shalt not kill.” Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak ye, and so do, as those who shall be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to the one who hath shown no mercy; and mercy triumphs over judgment.

At the Apostikha, these stikhera, in Tone 1: Special melody: “O all-praised martyrs...”

O divinely-wise Mark, /

Thou lover of the written word and swiftly writing scribe, /

Putting into words, in divinely-inspired manner, the incarnation of Christ /

And clearly announcing the words of eternal life. /

Pray that in it may be written the names of those singing thy praises ///

And honoring thy glorious memory.

Verse: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

O all-praised Mark, *the* herald of Christ, /

Thou didst pass over the earth like the sun, /

Destroying all the dark pantheon of idolatry with the rays of faith ///

Pray now that our souls may be granted peace and great mercy.

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

O Apostle Mark, /

Preaching to those who lived in lands of ignorant ungodliness /

The Egyptian darkness was driven away by the enlightenment of thy words /

O most-rich preacher of God. ///

Pray now that our souls may be granted peace and great mercy.

Glory... Tone 8:

Come, let us all praise with psalms and hymns /
The minister of the Gospel and the preacher of heavenly mysteries; /
For he revealed himself as a mystical and heavenly stream, /
Watering the spiritual fields with showers from heaven /
Making them fruitful for Christ God, ///
Who, by his prayers grants peace to our souls and great mercy.

Now and ever... of the Feast.

The Troparion of the Evangelist, in Tone 3:

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, /
Beseech the Merciful God, ///
That He may grant remission of sins to our souls.

Or this Troparion of the Evangelist, in the Same Tone:

O blessèd Mark, O *voice* of God, /
As an Apostle of Christ thou wast taught by the chief Apostle Peter. /
Like the sun, thou didst illumine the nations, /
Enrichment of Alexandria /
Liberator of Egypt from pagan delusions. /
As a pillar of light to the Church /
All were illumined by thine evangelical teachings /
Therefore we honor thy memory with great festivity. /
Pray to God the giver of the Gospel ///
That He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

Glory ... now and ever..., Feast.

Morning Service

incomplete as of 2/2013

After “**God is the Lord,**” the Troparion of the Feast (*Twice*), Glory..., the Apostle, Now and ever..., **Feast**.

After the first Kathisma, the Sedalen, in Tone 1: Special melody: “Thy tomb, O Savior...”

Shining forth in splendor upon the world, O Apostle /
Like the radiant dawn, /
The profound darkness of enchantment was driven away, /
And [countless] souls were enlightened. /
Therefore, the whole Church brightly sings thy light-bearing memory ///
Glorifying Christ for ever. (*Twice*)

Glory ... now and ever..., Feast.

After the second Kathisma, the Sedalen, in Tone 4: *Spec. melody: "Having been lifted up..."*

Being taught wisdom from the Fountain of Life /
Thou didst teach those who in their ignorance worshipped graven idols. /
Therefore, thou art blest forever, O wise one, /
And standing now before the throne of the Holy Trinity ///
Fervently pray that we may find remission of sins, O Apostle Mark. (*Twice*)

Glory ... now and ever..., Feast.

Polyeley and Magnification:

We magnify thee, / O holy apostle and evangelist Mark, / and we honor thy labors and sufferings / which thou didst endure in proclaiming Christ.

Selected Psalm verses:

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork! (*Ps. 18:2*)
The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints!
(Ps. 18:6)

After the Polyeley, the Sedalen, in Tone 8: *Special melody: "Of the Wisdom..."*

Destroying the pride of idolatry, /
And desiring the Sufferings of the Savior /
Thou didst show thyself a teacher to the nations. /
And from heaven wast thou revealed to the world, /
Pouring forth miracles to all, O blessèd one. /
Therefore, we worthily honor thee, /
And singing thy praises, we magnify thee: /
O divinely eloquent Apostle Mark, /
Pray Christ God to grant the remission of sins ///
To those honoring with love thy holy memory. (*Twice*)

Glory ... now and ever..., Feast.

1st Antiphon of the 4th Tone (The Song of Ascents), "From my youth..."

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!
(Ps. 18:5)

Verse: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!
(Ps. 18:2)

Let every breath praise the Lord!..

Gospel: (50) Luke 10:1-15.

After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel Stikheron, to the Evangelist, Tone 6:

As a shepherd of the Church of Christ, /
Grace flowed forth from thy lips, O Apostle Mark, /
Teaching thy rational sheep to believe in the Trinity /
One in Essence, in One Godhead.

The Canon

For the Feast, with 6 troparia, including the Irmos;
and that of the Evangelist, with 8 troparia, in Tone 1.

Incomplete as of 2/2013

The Kontakion of the Evangelist, in Tone 2: Special melody: “Seeking the highest...”

Thou didst receive the grace of God from above, most glorious Mark, /
And didst destroy rhetorical snares, O Apostle. /
Thou didst capture all nations, bringing them to the Master ///
By the preaching of the Divine Gospel.

On the Praises, 6 stikhera: 3 of the Feast, and
3 stikhera for the Evangelist, in Tone 1: Special melody: “O all-praised martyrs...”

O most-blessèd Mark! /
Thou didst take drink from the sweetest stream, /
The sparkling waters of the river of peace, /
Gushing forth from Eden, /
And thou didst cover *the* face of the earth /
With the waters of thy preaching of the Gospel, /
Pouring forth the grace of thy divine teachings ///
Upon the foundations of the Church.

O most-glorious Mark! /
Moses drowned the Egyptians of old in the sea, /
But thou, O most wise one, /
Rescued them from the sea of delusion /
By the power of Him Who had come *to* them in the flesh ///
And laid low their lofty temples by the power of His mighty arm.

O *most* holy Mark! /

On earth, thou didst dwell in the Spirit, /

And thy rich bounty, adorned with the radiance of blessedness /

Was made an offering to the Lord. /

Thus having attained the summit of *the* Mystery /

Thou hast received thy long-desired reward ///

And now abidest in the light of the Spirit.

Glory... Tone 6:

O most wise fisherman, /

O holy disciple and husbandman of the Savior; /

Thou didst write down the account His sufferings /

And traversed the world with faith; /

Gathering together the deluded nations /

And bringing them all to God; /

As an offering of sweet-smelling incense thou hast ascended to heaven /

Where thou standest now before the Judge of all: /

Pray that we may be delivered from all our transgressions ///

And from all torments on the Judgment Day.

Now and ever... Feast.

Great Doxology, Troparia, Litanies and Dismissal, as usual.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the appointed Ode of the Canon from the Pentecostarion; and 4 from Ode 3 of the Canon to the Evangelist.

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Beseech the Merciful God, ///

That He may grant remission of siñs to our souls.

Or this Troparion of the Evangelist, in the Same Tone:

O blessed Mark, O *voice* of God, /

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Enrichment of Alexandria /

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25 APRIL: THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MARK

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Therefore we honor thy memory with great festivity. /
Pray to God the giver *of* the Gospel ///
That He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

The Kontakion of the Evangelist, in Tone 2: *Special melody: "Seeking the highest..."*

Thou didst receive the grace of God from above, most glorious Mark, /
And didst destroy rhetorical snares, O Apostle. /
Thou didst capture all nations, bringing them to the Master ///
By the preaching of the Divine Gospel.

Prokeimenon of the Saint, Tone 8: My mouth shall speak wisdom / and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *Verse:* Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

The Prokeimenon of the Evangelist, in Tone 8: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe! *Verse:* The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

The Epistle: (63) I Peter 5:6-14.

The Alleluia, Tone 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints! *Verse:* God is glorified in the council of the saints!

The Gospel: (23) Mark 6:7-13

The Communion Hymn: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth / and their words to the ends of the universe!