



**The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark  
Whom the Holy Church Commemorates on April 25.**

Mark was an idolator from Cyrene of Pentapolis, which is near Libya. Having come to the Faith of Christ through the Apostle Peter, he followed him to Rome. While there, at the prompting of Peter himself and at the request of the Christians living there, he wrote his Gospel in Greek, and it is second in order after Matthew's. Afterwards, traveling to Egypt, he preached the Gospel there and was the first to establish the Church in Alexandria. The idolaters, being unable to bear his preaching, bound him with ropes and dragged him through the streets until he, cut to pieces on rocks, gave up his soul. It is said that he completed his life in martyrdom about the year 68. He is depicted in holy icons with a lion next to him, one of the living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), and a symbol of Christ's royal office, as Saint Irenaeus of Lyons states.

Wine and oil allowed.

*Dismissal Hymn. Third Tone*

**O** HOLY Apostle and Evangelist Mark, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offences.

*Kontakion. Second Tone  
Thou soughtest the heights*

**W**HEN thou hadst received \* the Spirit's grace from Heaven's heights, \* thou wentest apart \* the webs of the philosophers; \* and catching all of the nations in thy net, O all-lauded Mark, \* thou didst offer them to thy Lord by preaching the Gospel of divine renown.

Selected Hymns  
From  
THE MENAION  
**VESPERS**

*For Lord, I have cried, we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera;  
or, if desired, chant three of the Feast and three of the Apostle:*

*First Tone. Thou art the joy*

**T**O him that wrote down the true God-proclaiming oracles, \* to Egypt's great protector, let us worthily sing hymns, \* crying out, ye faithful: O godly-wise Mark, \* by thy teachings and by thy prayers, \* as an Apostle of Christ, do thou lead us all \* to that peaceful and untroubled life.

**T**HOU didst become the Elect Vessel's fellow traveler, \* with whom thou wentest through all Macedonia at his side; \* and coming unto Rome, thou wast shown to be \* Peter's spokesman, O all wise-Mark; \* and having striven in Egypt in godliness, there thou foundest thy last resting-place.

**T**HOU gavest life unto parched and terribly withered souls \* with the bright gleaming snow-fall of the luminous Gospel. \* Wherefore, O divine Mark, together with us, Alexandra keepeth feast \* today in gladness, while lauding thy memory; \* and thy relics doth she venerate.

*Other Stichera. Same tone. O all-lauded Martyrs*

**T**HOU drankest the torrent of delight \* and didst issue forth in glory as from Eden like unto a great river full of peace; \* with thy tides of preaching \* of the Gospel of the Lord \* didst flood all the face of the earth, O ever-blest Apostle Mark \* and didst water all the Church's ranks \* with thy doctrines, \* which were wholly God-inspired.

**A**LL-WISE and all-celebrated Mark, \* Moses once sank the Egyptians in the depths of the sea; but thou didst draw them from the depths of the sea of error \* by the power and might \* of Him that in a body came to them with uplifted arm \* over-turned and utterly destroyed \* all their idols \* and their hand-wrought images.

**S**INCE thou heldest converse with the light \* of the Spirit, thou becamest wholly spiritual; and now, O all-blest and sacred Mark, \* made God by adoption \* through most blessed gifts of light \* and unremitting prayers to the Master, thou hast found the fountainhead \* of the myst'ry of all things that be \* and the blessed \* end that thou didst so desire.

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

**G**RACE was poured forth on thy lips, O Apostle Mark; and thou becamest a shepherd of the Church of Christ, teaching the rational sheep to believe in the Consubstantial Trinity in One Godhead.

### **MATINS**

*After the usual reading from the Psalter, we say the Canon of the Feast and the following of the Saint  
Before the troparia, we say, O Apostle of Christ, intercede in our behalf.*

*First Tone*

**ODE ONE**

*Thy victorious right hand*

**A**S I laud Mark, the God-seer, I invoke the Spirit's grace to inspire me, that it may drive away mine ignorance with its enlightenment and may grant me the divine riches of its wisdom.

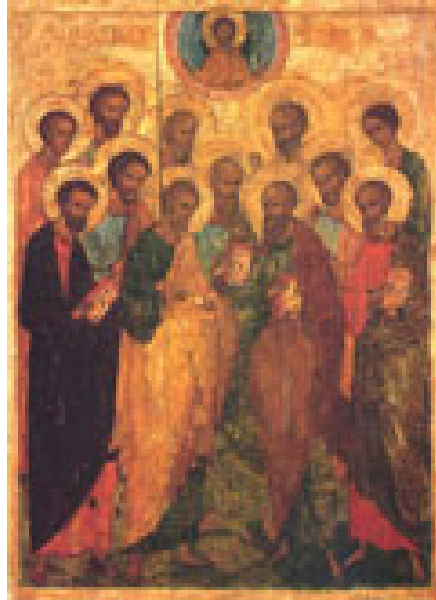
**W**HEN Thou hadst illuminated Thy divine herald with the enlightenment of grace, O Saviour, Thou, as the Author of all good, sentest him into the world to preach unto us the good tidings of Thine advent, O Word of God.

**I**NSTRUCTED by wise Peter, and made rich in his sonship, O all-renowned Mark, thou becamest an initiator into the mysteries of Christ and a joint heir of His glory.

*Theotokion*

**H**E that drowned the Egyptians in the deep, Himself afterwards came seated upon a virginal cloud unto the Egyptians; and through Mark, He delivered

them from error.



## THE TWELVE APOSTLES

### ODE THREE

*O Thou Who alone knowest*

**O** MASTER CHRIST, Thou Friend of man, Thy servant Mark, who was brightened with Thy gleaming rays, preached Thee, the enhypostatic Wisdom, made manifest unto the whole world to bestow life and enlighten mortals.

**W**HEN Mark, Thine eyewitness, received the ever-flowing stream of wisdom, O Christ, like a rushing river he flooded the uttermost parts of the earth with the light of divine knowledge, showing that which Thou saidest aforetime to be true, O Friend of man.

**F**OLLOWING Peter and reaping from him the light of theology, O wise Apostle, thou didst wisely set forth the Gospel as his disciple and didst clearly reveal the advent of God in the flesh.

*Theotokion*

**O**NCE Thou rodest upon the arms of the Virgin and shookest to destruction the demon-altars of Egypt; and then again Thou sentest Mark thither, to give all men understanding of Thine Incarnation and divine mystery, O my Christ.

OIKOS

**W**HEN thou becomest a disciple of the Chief Apostle, and with him didst preach Christ as the Son of God, thou madest steadfast on the rock of truth them that were storm-tossed with error. On this rock make me steadfast also, and guide the steps of my soul aright; that, being delivered from the snares of the enemy, I may glorify thee without hindrance. For thou hast enlightened all men, O wise Mark, by preaching the Gospel of divine renown.

SYNAXARION

✠ On the twenty-fifth of this month we commemorate the holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark .

*Verses*

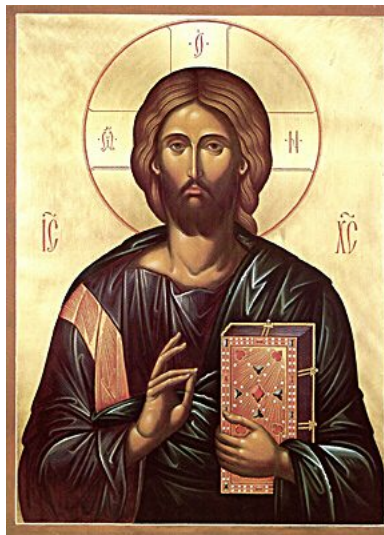
When blood-stained men dragged Mark on the earth to slay him,  
They unwittingly sent him into the Heavens.  
On the twenty-fifth, senseless men drew a Mark upon the ground.

✠ On this day we commemorate the holy Martyr Nike, who believed in Christ through Saint George.

*Verses*

The Awarder of Vict'ry awardeth Nike  
The awards of vict'ry as a vict'ry-bearer.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.



† THE LION OF THE † RIBE OF JUDAH  
(REV. 5:5)