

# April 25

## D. ✝ *Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.*



One of the seventy apostles, also called John, disciple of Apostle Peter and fellow traveler with Apostle Paul, Evangelist Mark was born as a Jew (Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5, 13; 15, 37, 39; Phm. 23; 2 Tim. 4:11; Col. 4:10) and was related to Barnabas (some posit that he was the son of the sister of Barnabas). He was by nature both impressionable and an ardent, prompt and active person. His mother Maria had a house in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) where many believers gathered. That Apostle Peter called Mark "his son" (1 Pet. 5:13) gives an occasion to think that Mark was also converted to Christianity by Apostle Peter. Having come close to Apostle Paul through Barnabas, Mark accompanied him during his first Apostolic journey, as his "assistant", (Acts 13:5) up to Perga in Pamphylia where Mark separated from him and again returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Then he and Barnabas went to Cyprus (Acts 15:36-39). Subsequently Mark again was with Apostle Paul (Col. 4:10. Phm. 23-24; 2 Tim. 4:11). Finally we meet Mark together with Silvanus near Babylon in the presence of Apostle Peter (1 Pet. 5:13) and the fathers of the church agreeing call him "the interpreter, expositor or contributor" of Apostle Peter.

Mark was in Rome with this Apostle, where, under the direction of Apostle Peter, wrote the Holy Gospel (in either 67 or 68), then being sent to Egypt, he founded many churches in Alexandria, and was the first bishop and underwent martyrdom there. Hating him for preaching Christ, the Pagans on the feast of Serapis burst into the church while he was serving the divine services, seized him and threw him into prison. They kept him there all night, but in the morning, having tied cords around his neck, they dragged him on the sharp stones of the streets of the city for a long time, from which St. Mark died (about the year 68). Evangelist Mark was buried in Alexandria. His memory is observed in both the Eastern and Western churches on April 25. In the 9th century, owing to the rule of the Arabs and the growth of the Monophysites, his holy relics were transferred to Venice where they even now repose.

### *Troparion, tone 3*

**Being taught by the supreme Apostle Peter,  
You became an apostle of Christ,  
And like the sun you shone on the nations,  
You became the adornment of Alexandria, O Blessed One:  
For by you Egypt was freed from temptation,  
By your evangelic teaching all are illumined like a light, O Pillar of the Church:  
Therefore brightly celebrating your memory in honor, O divinely-speaking Mark:  
Pray to God whose Gospel is proclaimed by you  
That remission of sins is granted to our souls.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Receiving the grace of the Spirit from on High,  
You unraveled the rhetorical weavings, O Apostle,  
And having caught all nations, O All-glorious Mark,  
You led them to your Master,  
Having preached the divine Gospel.**

**Paramoera:** 1) Jam. 1:1-12; 2) Jam. 1:13-27; 3) Jam. 2:1-13. **Matins Gospel:** Lk. 10:1-15; sel. 50. **Epistle:** 1 Peter. 5:6-14; sel. 63. **Gospel:** Mk. 6:7-13; sel. 23.

*St. Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople*

A zealous advocate of Orthodoxy for countering the Eutychian heresy, he was deprived of his see by Emperor Anastasius and banished to Paphlagonia where he died in 516. His body was buried in Constantinople. According to tradition St. Macedonius made the sign of the cross during his burial-service.

*Repose of Ven. Sylvester of Obnora*

A disciple of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh, Sylvester practiced asceticism on the Obnora River (Iaroslavl Diocese, 20 versts [13.2 miles] from the city of Liubim), where he founded the Obnora Monastery in the name of the Resurrection of the Lord, in which he was the rector. After the long ascetic deeds of Sylvester and having become glorified for wonders, he died in peace on April 25, 1379. His relics repose in the parish Church of the Resurrection in the place of his monastery (abolished in 1764).

*Constantinople Icon of the Mother of God*

According to tradition, this image appeared in 1071. A copy of it is found in the Dormition Church in Moscow the one that is on the Little Dmitrov.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0148-0149.  
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