

CELEBRATE EASTER

Saint Mark, Evangelist

Serenity is the quiet strength that comes from within.

1 Peter 5:5-14

Peter encourages us to be humble before God and toward one another with complete trust in God's loving kindness. He calls us to be steadfast in living in the grace of God.

Psalm 89

**The favor of the Lord I will sing forever;
Through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.**

Mark 16:15-20

This is an amazing story. In verse 16:14, we read about Jesus taking the disciples "to task for their disbelief and their stubbornness since they had not put faith in those who had seen him after he had been raised". In verse 15, the excerpt of today, we read about Jesus trusting the same men with all their "disbelief and stubbornness" and sending them with his mission of bringing good news to the world.

Today, we, with all our limitations and inconsistencies are trusted with this good news and called to bring this good news of Jesus to the world

Saint of the Day, April 25 - Saint Mark, Evangelist and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

We know very little about the early life and other details about Mark. Some people think that the young man who followed Jesus at a distance in the garden of Gethsemane and ran away naked when the crowd arrested Jesus, was Mark.

Mark was not an apostle. He was probably a member of one of the first Christian communities. His mother's house in Jerusalem is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as a center where Christians gathered. Mark was baptized by Peter. Then they both moved to Rome, where Mark served as Peter's secretary. Mark also traveled with Paul and his cousin Barnabas on their first missionary journey, evangelized Alexandria,

established a Church there and founded the first Christian School. Later, during Paul's two prison terms in Rome, Mark helped him to continue his work.

Mark is the author of the earliest canonical Gospel. Mark's gospel is simple and direct. It challenges the reader to share in Jesus' sufferings. It is filled with details that help us to understand the human side of Jesus.

Mark's symbol is a winged lion. The lion is a desert animal and Mark's gospel begins with the story of John the Baptist in the desert. Traditions say that Mark went to Alexandria in Egypt. He worked there for ten years before he was martyred on April 25, 68 in Alexandria. The city of Venice in Italy has Mark for its patron saint. His bones are said to rest in the great cathedral there. Mark is patron of attorneys, lawyers, stain glass workers and insect bites

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