

# April 25

**Thursday of the Paralytic; Mid-Pentecost;  
Commemoration of the Holy Apostle Mark, the Evangelist**  
(4th Class)

## VESPERS

*Stichera for the Resurrection (Tone 4)*

6. Having broken the dominion of Death by Your death, O Christ, You gave life to mankind by Your glorious Resurrection. By Your descent into the depths, You raised up the human race with You. Thus, in thanksgiving, we sing Your praises as we celebrate Your radiant third-day Resurrection. We have reached the mid-point of this festive season in the light which shines from You, O Jesus, Source of Life and Benefactor of our souls!
5. Before Your holy Passion on the Cross, You worked wondrous miracles for the people: in the midst of the Feast, as it is written, O all-powerful Lord. You called out: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me. Let him drink the divine water and the streams of life, for the water of wisdom, strength and life has been given to all by Me, who wished to resemble mankind in My love for them!"
4. I am paralyzed by sin on a bed of pain, unable to move my members, O compassionate Lord, in Your infinite love, You became incarnate according to Your good will. Make me rise like the Paralytic and guide me to walk in the way of Your divine precepts, O Savior. Before Your Passion, You manifested countless miracles to the people, O God who willed to suffer for us in the flesh.

*For Mark (Tone 1)*

3. Holy Mark, you have drunk deeply from Christ, the stream of delights. As though from Eden, you have flowed forth radiantly as a river of peace, bathing the face of the earth in the streams of your preaching of the Gospel and refreshing all the Churches by your divine teachings.
2. Moses once drowned the Egyptians in the sea. But you, O Mark, have drawn them out from the sea of error by the power of the One who descended among them in the flesh and destroyed their idols by His outstretched arm.
1. Having received the light of the Spirit, O holy Mark, you became a man completely spiritual. By your unceasing desire for the Lord, you stand before God now, divinized by His blessed radiance; and you have found both the Source of the Mystery and the goal for which you yearned.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Dogmatikon (Tone 2)*

When You came to the Temple in the midst of the Feast, O Christ our God, You taught the multitude and said, "Whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life!" But the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes murmured, "Who is this that blasphemes in such a way?" They did not think that You are truly the God of all eternity, glorified with the Father and the Spirit. O Lord our God, glory to You!

*"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.*

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 3*)

1. O Christ, the sun was darkened at Your Passion, but You enlightened the whole creation and overwhelmed it with joy with the glow of Your Resurrection. Accept from us an evening hymn of praise, O Lover of Mankind!

All: Their voice has gone forth over the whole world, and their words to the limits of the universe.

2. Your voice has gone forth over the whole world, O holy Apostles. You brought an end to idolatry and proclaimed the knowledge of the one true God. You fought the good fight, O blessed ones, and we sing and glorify your memory.

All: God is wonderful among His saints, the God of Israel.

3. Sustained by faith and strengthened by hope, Your martyrs were united in spirit by love for Your Cross. They vanquished the tyranny of the Enemy. Having received the crown of immortality, they now intercede for our souls together with the bodiless Angels.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Dogmatikon*

In the midst of the Feast, we glorify Him who brought about salvation in the midst of the earth. In the midst of two thieves, Christ our Life was hung upon the Cross. Before the blasphemies of the one, He kept silent. But to the One who believed in Him, He declared, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." Then Christ went down into the tomb and despoiled Hades; and on the third day, He rose to grant our souls great mercy.

**TROPARION OF MARK** (*Tone 3*)

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, intercede with the merciful God that He may grant our souls the forgiveness of sins.

**OR TROPARION OF MARK** (*Tone 3*)

Instructed by the divine Peter, you became an Apostle of Christ and you shone like the sun upon the whole world. In you Alexandria possesses her treasure, and through you Egypt was delivered from error, for through your teaching of the Gospel you enlightened it completely, like a new pillar of fire, O blessed one. Therefore we celebrate your radiant feast as we honor your memory, O Apostle Mark. Entreat our God, for whom you were an evangelist, to grant great mercy to us all.

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**TROPARION OF MID-PENTECOST** (*Tone 8*)

At the middle point of this festive season, give my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for You called out to all men: "Whoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!" O Christ God, Fountain of Life, glory to You!