

## Reading for the Feast of St Mark, Evangelist

April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026

### First reading

1 Peter 5:5b-14

**‘Mark, my son, sends you greetings.’**

Beloved: Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility towards one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 89(88):2-3. 6-7. 16-17. R2a**

*I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord.*

*or: Alleluia.*

I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity.  
I have declared your mercy is established for ever;  
your fidelity stands firm as the heavens.  
The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,  
your fidelity, too, in the assembly of your holy ones.  
For who in the skies can compare with the Lord,  
or who is like the Lord among the heavenly powers?  
How blessed the people who know your praise,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your uprightness their joyful acclaim.

### Gospel Acclamation

**1 Corinthians 1:23a, 24b**

Alleluia, alleluia.

We preach Christ crucified;  
the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Alleluia.

## Gospel

## Mark 16:15-20

**‘He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.’**

At that time: Jesus appeared to the Eleven and he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.’

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

### Short reflection on the reading for today

Mark the Gospel-writer may reasonably be identified with the “John Mark” mentioned in Acts 12-15, a Jew from Jerusalem, whose mother Mary let her house be used as the meeting place for the little group of Christians where Peter came on his release from prison (Acts 12:12). He was still a youth at the time of Our Lord’s death, and may even have been the young man in the garden of Gethsemane on the night Jesus was arrested and who fled away leaving behind his linen cloth or nightshirt.

During the next few years young John Mark witnessed the growth of the Church from his mother’s Upper Room into a much larger and more diversified group. Committing himself to the spread of the faith, Mark accompanied his cousin Barnabas and Saul on their first missionary journey. But he was unready for the dangers of this work and left them at Perge to return to Jerusalem. While preparing for a later missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark along once more, but Paul objected so strongly that the two cousins went off together on mission. Time healed the rift between Paul, Barnabas and Mark, and during Paul’s Roman captivity (a.d. 61-63), Mark did him some service (Philem. 24). Later when the Apostle was in a more severe imprisonment he asked Mark to come to visit him (2 Tim. 4:11).

A reliable early tradition identifies Mark as assistant in Rome to St Peter, whom he had known years before, back in Jerusalem. If he was Peter’s companion and interpreter (into Greek and/or Latin, both of which were spoken in Rome at that time) it would explain why various incidents involving Peter are described with such detail by Mark, who also includes the rebuff Peter received when Jesus said to him, “Get behind me, you Satan; you are a stumbling-block to me.” This echoes Peter’s humble acceptance of his own weakness and is a far cry from the ringing endorsement of his authority in Matthew’s famous phrase, “You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church!”

Nothing is known for certain about Mark’s later life. He is said to have died a martyr’s death in Alexandria in Egypt, and during the Crusades his relics were transferred from Alexandria to Venice and given a worthy tomb in the form of St. Mark’s Cathedral. Whatever about his life after Rome, Mark’s Gospel, the shortest of the four, is a *Roman* Gospel, written in Rome and addressed to Gentile, Western Christians. Echoing Peter’s words he offers numerous instances of where the disciples failed Jesus because they lacked *faith* plus some memorable examples of outsiders who immediately believed in him (e.g. the leper who begged for a cure 1:40; the Syro-Phoenician woman 7:29; the father of the epileptic boy 9:23; blind Bartimaeus 10:52; the centurion who witnessed Jesus’ death 15:39). One can regard Mark as our main source for actual, eyewitness stories about Jesus’s healings, since his Gospel recounts mainly Peter’s memories, and the other three Gospels are largely a broadening of the Lord’s story, all using Mark as their starting-point.