

April Holy Hero

St. Mark the Evangelist - feast day April 25



Hello friends!

My name is Mark. My writings became the second Gospel of the New Testament. I was born in North Africa and later moved to Jerusalem with my family. My mother's house was often a meeting place for early Christians. From the time I was young, my family and I shared the exciting and intimate life of the first Christians of Jerusalem, close to the Blessed Virgin and the twelve apostles. I traveled with my cousin, St. Barnabas, and St. Paul on their missionary journey through the island of Cyprus. I also accompanied St. Peter to Rome, acting as his interpreter. Although I did not witness *all* the events of the life of Jesus, as I was not one of the 12 apostles, I learned much about Him from my close friend, Peter, who was like a father to me. While in Rome, I was asked to record the life of Jesus, as told by St. Peter, which I wrote in Greek to the Gentile (not Jewish) converts to Christianity. Mine was the first to be written, around the year 60 A.D., and also the shortest of the four Gospels.

My Gospel gives you a direct picture of Jesus, told in a straight-forward way. I want to show my readers the human side of Jesus too. I tell of the times when our Lord was happy, sad, angry and hopeful. But I also want you to imagine the wonders of heaven by telling of the many miracles of Jesus: the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, our Lord walking on the water, calming the stormy sea, and curing the man with many demons. The vivid and detailed descriptions I give about the life of Christ fill out the picture given by the other Gospels.

The word "Gospel" means good news, and my good news is about Jesus Christ, THE SON OF GOD. Pay close attention to Jesus' message about the Kingdom of God breaking into human life, (Mark 1, vs. 14-15) and Jesus HIMSELF as the Gospel of God! (Chp 1,vs1. Chp 8,vs35. Chp 10,vs29) Jesus is the Son whom God has sent into the world to save humanity by serving and by sacrificing His very life. (Chp 10, vs45)

Tradition tells us that Mark left Rome after the death of Peter, and went to preach in Alexandria, Egypt, where he founded the first Christian church and school there, and where he was eventually martyred. St. Mark is represented by the symbol of a winged lion. This comes from the beginning of his Gospel describing John the Baptist's voice "crying out in the wilderness". (Mark 1,vs3) His voice sounding like that of a roaring lion!