

Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist - April 25

First Reading: 1 Pet 5: 5b-14;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89: 2-3, 6-7, 16-17;

Gospel Reading: Mk 16: 15-20.

Theme: All have been Called to Ministry

As we celebrate the feast of St. Mark, the Evangelist, we reflect on the Great Commission of the Risen Christ to all believers. All believers have been given a task to proclaim the Good News of salvation to all the nations. St. Mark was a companion of Barnabas, Paul, and Peter in their missionary journeys. St. Mark did his part as a companion and aide of St. Peter as demonstrated in the first reading. St. Peter called him his son in Christ. St. Mark wrote his Gospel in Rome where Peter was imprisoned. St. Mark wrote his Gospel in Greek for Gentile readers. Gentile readers as the main audience, St. Mark wrote his Gospel as a summary of the life of the Jesus whom the Apostles were failing to understand.

St. Mark, the Evangelists, concluded his Gospel with the end of Jesus's physical presence with His beloved disciples and the new beginning of Jesus's presence with them in a new way, in the Holy Spirit. This is proven by the fact that St. Mark was not one of the Twelve Apostles, yet he was called and chosen to write the second Gospel. The significance of the life and ministry of St. Mark is that the grace of evangelization had not come only to the Apostles and the fountain of grace had not dried up with the Apostles. St Mark is a testimony to the generosity of God's graces to all. God has called us (politicians, couples, priests, religious, through our baptism to be disciples like St. Mark. We pray for the evangelizing zeal of St. Mark the Evangelist.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor