

APRIL 25, SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST: MORNING PRAYER

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from Ecclesiasticus

My son, if you come forward to serve the LORD, prepare yourself for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be hasty in time of calamity. Cleave to him and do not depart, that you may be honored at the end of your life. Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in changes that humble you be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him. You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest you fall. You who fear the LORD, trust in him, and your reward will not fail; you who fear the LORD, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy. Consider the ancient generations and see: who ever trusted in the LORD and was put to shame? Or who ever persevered in the fear of the LORD and was forsaken? Or who ever called upon him and was overlooked? For the

LORD is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in time of affliction.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, bringing with them John whose other name was Mark. Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyre'ne, Man'a-en a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.