

This is the Day
(Woodhall... 2²)

EASTER PREFACE

It's a curious twist of the calendar that in all the years I've been presenting Midday Prayers on most Mondays and Thursdays there've only been ^{two} ~~one~~ or three times in all that today's date, 25th April, has fallen on one of those days: the last time was 9 years ago - when I didn't talk about St Mark. For this is his festival day, one of the more solemn saints' days in the church calendar. Today then let us pray that thro' his intercession for us in the family of God we may each learn to hear and listen to the word of God, of which he was such a good and faithful servant. As one of the 4 evangelists, of course we owe a great debt in our faith and clarity to St Mark - so let us rejoice and give thanks for him, and for the particular insights and attitudes that his gospel presents to us. A number of years ago it was more fashionable to try to co-ordinate all 4 gospels in a concordance that would give a fuller picture of the life, work and teaching of Jesus - now, tho', the preference is for the individual particular witness of each of the biblical writers and compilers who together have presented us with God's word. In the case of St Mark, at least in English, the ^{a couple of years ago} one-man-show by a British actor speaking the whole gospel in one sitting as it were, helped I think to let one grasp the work as a whole, and the particular witness that's apparent in St Mark. This is also the start of the 4 gospels, and so another reason, maybe, to encourage one to read and take it in as one piece - too often, perhaps, we only hear, listen to or read bits of the gospels. Today, St Mark's day, may be an invitation to read his gospel again, more conscious of his way of showing us the Lord. And in this Eastertime, let's now listen to his account

of the Lord's appearing among His disciples on Easter Day. ☪ Mk 16^{14f}

DER.E.10
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- The ending of St Mark's gospel. Let us make our prayers now, beginning with this Easter hymn "Now the Green Blade riseth" MUSIC - PRAYERS (St Luke + Deiss)

And to end with today, something about St Mark himself, from the little that's known of him
☪₁ ^{Oxf} Dict. of Saints.