

## HOLY EVANGELISTS



The evangelists were those apostles of Christ or their assistants who evangelize people by writing Gospels. There are four Evangelists: namely St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John. Sts. Matthew and John belonged to twelve Apostles, while Sts. Mark and Luke were among the seventy disciples.

St. Matthew wrote his Gospel in Jerusalem upon the request of the local Church, as a witness and testifier. His symbol is a winged man.

St. Mark wrote his Gospel upon the request of St. Peter. He is considered to be the first bishop of Egypt. St. Mark the Evangelist is symbolized by a winged lion.

St. Luke was a Greek from the city of Antioch in Syria. He was a physician and a historian. He became the companion of St. Paul. After St. Paul's martyrdom, St. Luke ministered in Italy, France and Macedonia where he was martyred. Tradition says that he wrote his Gospel in Antioch upon Paul's request. Luke's symbol is winged bull.

St. John the Evangelist wrote his Gospel the last; it was written around 90 AD, upon the request of the Church in Asia. His Symbol is an eagle.

The first three Gospels contain similar stories of the earthly life of our Savior and because of it are called "Synoptic" Gospels, yet the Gospel of St. John differs from the first three. St. John simply tried to write about the events that the first three Evangelists forgot to mention.

Armenian Church reveres the four Gospels of the New Testaments as the most useful books in the Bible as they describe the earthly ministry of Christ our Lord.