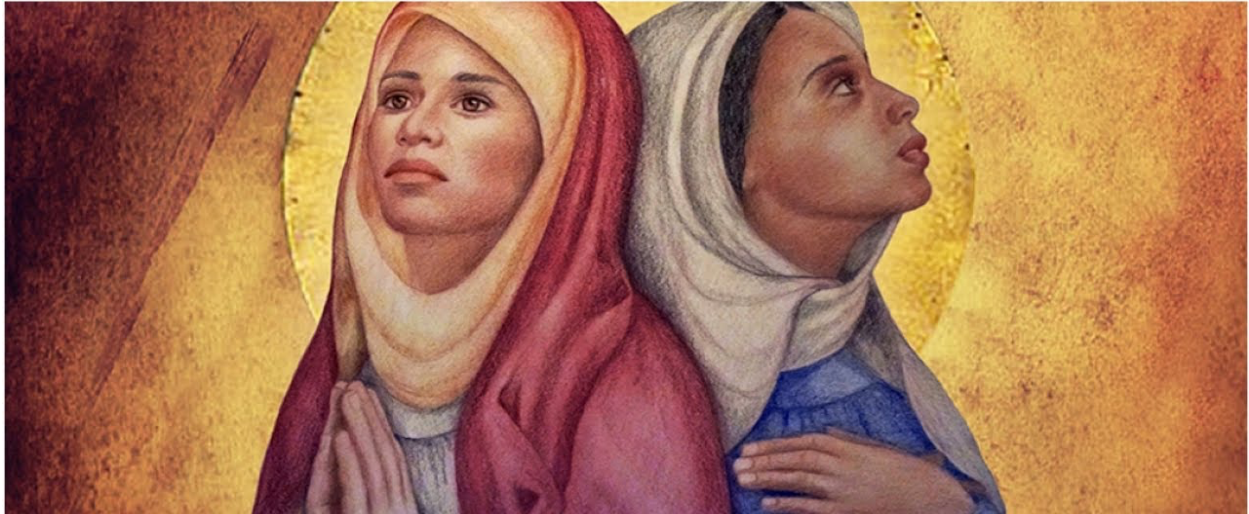


*Morning Prayer
Lent: Friday, 7 March 2025
Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions,
Martyrs at Carthage, 203 [Lesser Festival]*



Perpetua and Felicity were early Christian martyrs from Carthage, North Africa, who were executed together during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus; Perpetua, a young, well-educated noblewoman, was imprisoned alongside Felicity, a pregnant slave, and they both bravely faced martyrdom for their faith, with Perpetua even documenting her experiences in a diary, showcasing their unwavering commitment to Christianity despite facing persecution and death in the Roman arena.

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

Alland our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

Allaccording to your judgement give us life.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,
your light breaks forth like the dawn
and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All/Blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of Penitence

1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,

5 So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.

6 Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.

7 Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

8 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.

9 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,
the God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Psalm 51.1-5, 12-15

**All/Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

AllAmen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 7

1O Lord my God, in you I take refuge;
save me from all who pursue me, and deliver me,

2Lest they rend me like a lion and tear me in pieces
while there is no one to help me.

3O Lord my God, if I have done these things:
if there is any wickedness in my hands,

4If I have repaid my friend with evil,
or plundered my enemy without a cause,

5Then let my enemy pursue me and overtake me,
trample my life to the ground,
and lay my honour in the dust.

All:*Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.*

6Rise up, O Lord, in your wrath;
lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies.
Awaken, my God, the judgement that you have commanded.

7Let the assembly of the peoples gather round you;
be seated high above them: O Lord, judge the nations.

8 Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord,
and according to the innocence that is in me.

9 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,
but establish the righteous;
for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.

*All: Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.*

10 God is my shield that is over me;
he saves the true of heart.

11 God is a righteous judge;
he is provoked all day long.

12 If they will not repent, God will whet his sword;
he has bent his bow and made it ready.

13 He has prepared the weapons of death;
he makes his arrows shafts of fire.

*All: Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.*

14 Behold those who are in labour with wickedness,
who conceive evil and give birth to lies.

15 They dig a pit and make it deep
and fall into the hole that they have made for others.

16 Their mischief rebounds on their own head;
their violence falls on their own scalp.

17 I will give thanks to the Lord for his righteousness,
and I will make music to the name of the Lord Most High.

*All: Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.*

***All Lord, your justice turns evil on itself:
move us to examine our hearts
and repent of all duplicity;***

***for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and righteous Saviour.***

***All* Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Jeremiah 3.6-22

The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and played the whore there? And I thought, 'After she has done all this she will return to me'; but she did not return, and her false sister Judah saw it. She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. Because she took her whoredom so lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. Yet for all this her false sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but only in pretence, says the LORD.

Then the LORD said to me: Faithless Israel has shown herself less guilty than false Judah. Go, and proclaim these words towards the north, and say:
Return, faithless Israel,

says the LORD.
I will not look on you in anger,
for I am merciful,

says the LORD;
I will not be angry for ever.
Only acknowledge your guilt,
that you have rebelled against the LORD your God,
and scattered your favours among strangers under every green tree,
and have not obeyed my voice,

says the LORD.
Return, O faithless children,

says the LORD,
for I am your master;
I will take you, one from a city and two from a family,
and I will bring you to Zion.

I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those

days, says the LORD, they shall no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; nor shall another one be made. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will. In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your ancestors for a heritage.

I thought

how I would set you among my children,
and give you a pleasant land,
the most beautiful heritage of all the nations.
And I thought you would call me, My Father,
and would not turn from following me.
Instead, as a faithless wife leaves her husband,
so you have been faithless to me, O house of Israel,

says the LORD.

A voice on the bare heights is heard,
the plaintive weeping of Israel's children,
because they have perverted their way,
they have forgotten the LORD their God:
Return, O faithless children,
I will heal your faithlessness.

'Here we come to you;
for you are the LORD our God.

Canticle

41 A Song of Humility

1Come, let us return to the Lord •
who has torn us and will heal us.

2God has stricken us •
and will bind up our wounds.

AllRaise us up, O God,
that we may live in your presence.

3After two days, he will revive us, •
and on the third day will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.

4Let us strive to know the Lord; •
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

**All Raise us up, O God,
that we may live in your presence.**

5He will come to us like the showers, •
like the spring rains that water the earth.

6O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? •
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?

**All Raise us up, O God,
that we may live in your presence.**

7Your love for me is like the morning mist, •
like the dew that goes early away.

8Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, •
and my judgement goes forth as the light.

9For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, •
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. '

**All Raise us up, O God,
that we may live in your presence.**

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

John 4.27-42

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

All O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

All To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

All O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

All To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

from Psalm 25

Gospel Canticle

Saviour of the World

1 Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us in your mercy:
we look to you to save and help us.

2 By your cross and your life laid down,
you set your people free:
we look to you to save and help us.

**All Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

3When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples:
we look to you to come to our help.

4In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains,
forgive the sins of all your people.

**All Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

5Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer;
save and help us that we may praise you.

6Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:
hear our prayer and be with us always.

7And when you come in your glory:
make us to be one with you
and to share the life of your kingdom.

**All Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for the Church and her life*

Prayers may include the following concerns from the [cycle on pages 364–365](#)

¶ *Those preparing for baptism and confirmation*

¶ *Those serving through leadership*

¶ *Those looking for forgiveness*

¶ *Those misled by the false gods of this present age*

¶ *All who are hungry*

A form of prayer found [on page 380](#) may be used.

The Litany [on pages 400-403](#) may be said instead of the Prayers.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Holy God,
who gave great courage to Perpetua, Felicity and their companions:
grant that we may be worthy to climb the ladder of sacrifice
and be received into the garden of peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

Trusting in the compassion of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

A//Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

A//Thanks be to God.

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