



Trinity Episcopal Church

44 East Market Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

“Feeding All in Body, Mind, and Soul”
A Community of God’s People
All are Welcome



***The Lessons Appointed for Use on
The Feast of
Perpetua
and Companions
Felicitas, Saturus, Saturninus, and Revocatus
Martyrs at Carthage, 202
Wednesday, March 7, 2018***

The Collect:

O God, our Hope and Redeemer, your holy martyr Perpetua and her companions renounced all loves that bound them to earth and embraced your heavenly promises through the shedding of their blood. Grant us so to cherish their memory that in every trial of our faith we may neither fear nor doubt but know you as our guide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson:

Hebrews 10:32–39

Recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

For yet "in a very little while,
the one who is coming will come and will not delay;

but my righteous one will live by faith.
My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back."

But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.

Psalm 124

If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Gospel:

Matthew 24:9–14

Jesus said, "They will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come."

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Deliverer, who gathered the prayers of your blessed martyrs in the cup of the sufferings of Christ, guide us by the hand of your mercy that we may offer no other service but that which is pleasing in your sight. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, whose blessed martyr Perpetua passed in triumph through the great tribulation, deliver your people from oppression and shame, and grant us a share in the wondrous power which you are pleased to bestow upon your martyrs. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We honor the memory of Perpetua, a young woman of Carthage who was martyred for the faith on this date in the year 202. We also remember four other Christians who suffered with her — a slave-woman named **Felicitas**, a priest, **Saturus**, a man named **Saturninus**, and a slave, **Revocatus**. These people were denounced to the pagan Roman authorities and condemned to death. When the appointed day came, they were led into the public arena and a number of wild animals were loosed upon them. All managed to survive this ordeal — as it was intended they should. After a short interval they were again led into the arena, so that the crowd could see them dispatched with the sword. Perpetua and her companions exchanged the kiss of peace, then mounted the platform one by one to die. Perpetua herself was the last to be executed. Soon afterwards a Christian eyewitness wrote an account of their sufferings, and this document captured the imagination of the whole Church, so that Perpetua and her companions came to be venerated throughout the Christian world.*

(From the Anglican Church of Canada)