

St. Perpetua had just become a mother and St. Felicitas was on the point of becoming one, when they were thrown into prison at Carthage during the persecution of Severus. They prayed that they might become martyrs and were filled with joy at their condemnation. They were put to death in the amphitheatre in 202.

They were the first saints to be included from outside Rome in the Roman Calendar of the Fourth Century. They are named in the Canon of the Mass.

#### INTROIT Psalms 118: 95-96

Me exspectaverunt peccatores, ut perderent me: testimonia tua, Domine, intellexi: omnis consummationis vidi finem: latum mandatum tuum nimis. (Ps. 118: 1) Beati immaculati in via: qui ambulat in lege Domini. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in secula seculorum. Amen. Me exspectaverunt peccatores, ut perderent me: testimonia tua, Domine, intellexi: omnis consummationis vidi finem: latum mandatum tuum nimis.

#### COLLECT

Da nobis, quaesumus, Domine, Deus noster, sanctarum Martyrum tuarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis palmas incessabili devotione venerari: ut, quas digna mente non possumus celebrare, humilibus saltem frequentemus obsequiis. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia secula seculorum.

#### Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Deus, qui culpa offenderis, paenitentia placaris: preces populi tui supplicantis propitius respice; et flagella tuae iracundiae, quae pro peccatis nostris meremur, averte. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia secula seculorum.

#### LESSON Ecclesiasticus 51: 13-17

Domine, Deus meus, exaltasti super terram habitationem meam, et pro morte defluente deprecata sum. Invocavi Dominum, Patrem Domini mei, ut non derelinquat me in die tribulationis meae, et in tempore superborum sine adiutorio. Laudabo nomen tuum assidue, et collaudabo illud in confessione, et exaudita est oratio mea. Et liberasti me de perditione, et eripuisti me de tempore iniquo. Propterea confitebor et laudem dicam tibi, Domine, Deus noster.

#### GRADUAL Psalms 45: 6, 5

Adjuvabit eam Deus vultu suo: Deus in misericordia eius, non movabitur. Fluminis impetus laetificat civitatem Dei: sanctificavit tabernaculum suum Altissimus.

*(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)*

#### LESSER ALLELUIA

Alleluja, alleluja. Haec est Virgo sapiens, et una de numero prudentum. Alleluja.

#### TRACT

Veni, sponsa Christi, accipe coronam, quam tibi Dominus praeparavit in aeternum: pro cuius amore sanguinem tuum fudisti. (Ps. 44: 8, 5) Dilexisti iustitiam, et odisti iniquitatem; propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo laetitiae prae consortibus tuis. Specie tua, et pulchritudine tua intende, prospere procede, et regna.

#### GOSPEL Matthew 13: 44-52

In illo tempore: Dixit Iesus discipulis suis parabolam me: Simile est regnum caelorum thesauro abscondito in agro: quem qui invenit homo, abscondit, et prae gaudio illius vadit, et vendit universa, quae habet, et emit agrum illum. Iterum simile est regnum caelorum homini negotiatori, quaerenti bonas margaritas. Inventa autem una pretiosa margarita, abiit, et vendidit omnia, quae habuit, et emit eam. Iterum simile est regnum caelorum saginae, missae in mare et ex omni genere piscium congreganti. Quam, cum impleta esset, educentes, et secus litus sedentes, elegerunt bonos in vasa, malos autem foras miserunt. Sic erit in consummatione saeculi: exibunt Angeli, et separabunt malos de medio iustorum, et mittent eos in caminum ignis: ibi erit fletus et stridor dentium. Intellexistis haec omnia? Dicunt ei: Etiam. Ait illis: Ideo omnis scriba doctus in regno caelorum similis est homini patrifamilias, qui profert de thesauro suo nova et vetera.

#### OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 3

Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis: propterea benedixit te Deus in aeternum, et in saeculum saeculi.

#### SECRET

Intende, quaesumus, Domine, munera altaribus tuis pro sanctarum Martyrum tuarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis festivitate proposita: ut, sicut per haec beata mysteria illis gloriam contulisti; ita nobis indulgentiam largiaris. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia secula seculorum.

#### Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Sacrificium praesentibus, Domine, ut devotioni nostrae proficiant et saluti. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia secula seculorum.

#### PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, aequum et salutare, nos tibi semper et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeterna Deus: Qui corporali jejunio vitia comprimis, mentem elevas, virtutem largiris et praemia: per Christum Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Caeli caelorumque Virtutes ac beata Seraphim socia exultatione concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti jubeas, deprecamur, supplici confessione dicentes:

#### COMMUNION

##### Psalms 118: 121, 122, 128

Feci iudicium et iustitiam, Domine, non calumniatur mihi superbi: ad omnia mandata tua dirigebam, omnem viam iniquitatis odio habui.

#### POSTCOMMUNION

Mysticis, Domine, replenti sumus votis et gaudiis: praesta, quaesumus; ut intercessionibus sanctarum Martyrum tuarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis, quae temporaliter agimus, spiritaliter consequamur. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia secula seculorum.

#### Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Caelstis doni benedictione percépta: supplices te, Deus omnipotens, deprecamur; ut hoc idem nobis et sacramenti causa sit et salutis. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia secula seculorum.

The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I have understood Thy testimonies, O Lord: I have seen an end of all perfection; Thy command is exceeding broad. (Ps. 118: 1) Blessed are the undefiled in the way: who walk in the law of the Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: but I have understood Thy testimonies, O Lord: I have seen an end of all perfection; Thy command is exceeding broad.

Give unto us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, to reverence with unceasing devotion the glory of Thy holy Martyrs Perpetua and Felicity; and though it be not ours worthily to honor their triumph, to persevere in offering them the humble tribute of our duty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O God, Who by sin art offended and by penance appeased, mercifully regard the prayers of Thy suppliant people: and turn aside the scourges of Thine anger, which we deserve for our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O Lord my God, Thou hast exalted my dwelling place upon the earth, and I have prayed for death to pass away. I called upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that He would not leave me in the day of my trouble, and in the time of the proud without help. I will praise Thy Name continually, and will praise it with thanksgiving, and my prayer was heard. And Thou hast saved me from destruction, and hast delivered me from the evil time. Therefore I will give thanks and praise to Thee, O Lord our God.

God will help her with His countenance: God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved. The stream of the river maketh the city of God joyful: the Most High hath sanctified His own tabernacle.

*(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)*

Alleluia, alleluia. This is a wise virgin, and one of the number of the prudent. Alleluia.

Come thou, spouse of Christ, receive the crown which the Lord hath prepared for thee from everlasting: for those who love thou didst shed thy blood. (Ps. 44: 8, 5) Thou hast loved justice and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. With thy comeliness and thy beauty set out, proceed prosperously, and reign.

At that time, Jesus spoke to His disciples this parable: The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in a field. Which a man having found, hid it, and for joy thereof goeth, and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a merchant seeking good pearls. Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went his way, and sold all that he had, and bought it. Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a net cast into the sea, and gathering together of all kind of fishes. Which, when it was filled, they drew out, and sitting by the shore, they chose out the good into vessels, but the bad they cast forth. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall go out, and shall separate the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have ye understood all these things? They say to him: Yes. He said unto them: Therefore every scribe instructed in the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure new things and old.

Grace is poured abroad in thy lips: therefore hath God blessed thee for ever.

Favorably look down we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon the gifts laid upon Thine altars for the feast-day of Thy holy Virgin-Martyrs Perpetua and Felicity, and as by these Sacred Mysteries, Thou didst raise Thy Saints to glory everlasting, so through them vouchsafe to us Thy forgiveness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Look down favourably, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon these sacrifices, that they may profit us both unto our devotion and salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly fitting and just, proper and beneficial, that we should always and everywhere, give thanks unto Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who by this bodily fast, dost curb our vices, dost lift up our minds and bestow on us strength and rewards through Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

I have done judgment and justice, O Lord, give me not up to them that slander me: I was directed to all Thy commandments, I have hated all wicked ways.

Thou hast filled us, O Lord, with mystic graces and joys: grant, we beseech Thee, that through the prayers of Thy holy Martyrs, Perpetua and Felicity, we may profit eternally from having in this our time ministered to Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Having received the blessing of this heavenly gift, we humbly entreat Thee, almighty God, that it may be to us an assurance both of sacramental grace and of salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.