

**MARCH 7,
PERPETUA AND HER COMPANIONS, MARTYRS AT
CARTHAGE, 202;**

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised. “For yet a little while, and the coming one shall come and shall not tarry; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls.

The Reader concludes *The Word of the Lord.*

Psalm 34: 1–8

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 34, verses 1 through 8, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 627.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 34 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who
fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

Before the Season of Lent begins:

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake, *
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

People Alleluia.

In Lent:

There is no verse before the Gospel.

The Reader returns to his or her seat.

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HEBREWS 10:32-39; PSALM 34:1-8; MATTHEW 5:10; MATTHEW 24:9-14

The Holy Gospel

The Minister says

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Minister

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come."

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.