



Day of the
Christian
Martyr
2026

Perpetua

JOYFULLY PREPARED TO MEET CHRIST

In A.D. 203, Carthage was a major Roman outpost in what is now Tunisia. One of its citizens, Perpetua, was a well-educated young noblewoman with an infant son. She was also a Christian, and when she refused to deny Christ by offering a sacrifice to Roman gods, she and several other Christians were sentenced to death.

For Perpetua, following Christ meant leaving behind her affluent life. She counted the cost of following Christ, knowing that her devotion would separate her from her family. Her father pled with her to recant her faith for the sake of her infant son, and even Roman officials urged her to offer a simple sacrifice to appease the Roman government, which would save her life. Perpetua declined to place anything above her love for and allegiance to Christ.

Her decision wasn't made in haste. Perpetua's prison diaries tell how she sought the Lord's guidance, relied on God's strength and embraced Christ as worthy of her suffering. She wrote, "I cannot be called anything other than what I am, a Christian."

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On the day of her execution, she strode to the arena with a radiant countenance. She was attacked first by a rabid cow and thrown to the ground. Calmly adjusting her tunic to protect her modesty, Perpetua requested a pin to fix her disheveled hair, as leaving it loose would be a sign of grief and loss.

As the attacks continued, Perpetua encouraged her companions to stand fast in faith and love for one another. She endured more brutality before finally taking the sword held in the trembling hand of the young gladiator ordered to kill her and guiding it to her throat.

Since her sacrificial death and joyful surrender to God, every generation of Christians has been inspired by Perpetua's faithfulness to Christ.

**Inspired by Perpetua's Faithfulness,
Write Your Own Commitment to Christ**

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.”

—Philippians 1:27-28

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