

## **Martin de Porres**

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, on December 9, 1579, the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a young black former slave. Because Martin inherited the dark skin of his mother, his father abandoned the family.

Martin apprenticed to a barber-surgeon and after learning the trade, he applied to the Dominicans to be a “lay helper.” Placed in charge of the infirmary, he was known for his tender care of the sick and for his spectacular cures. His faithfulness led the community to request his religious profession. The stipulation that “no black person may be received to the holy habit or profession of our Order,” was dropped, and Martin took vows as a Dominican brother in 1603.

Martin was a good friend of Rosa de Lima, who shared his passion for the sick and the poor. Rosa was exceedingly beautiful and, because of her family’s fading fortunes, she feared being married off to a wealthy man in exchange for her dowry. Not wanting this to happen, Rosa disfigured herself. In

order to contribute to her family’s upkeep, Rosa took in sewing and served as a gardener.

Her passion for the poor, however, eventually led her to the Third Order of St. Dominic where she became a recluse. Out of her prayer grew a strong desire to do works of mercy for the poorest of the poor, particularly for Indians, slaves, and others on the margins of society.

Toribio de Mogrovejo was born in Spain in 1538 and became a brilliant student of law and theology. In 1580, the Archdiocese of Lima, Peru, needed a new leader and Toribio was chosen. He objected because he was a layman, but was overruled, ordained priest and bishop, and arrived in Peru in 1581 as archbishop.

Confronted with the worst of colonialism, Toribio fought injustice in both the church and the civil order. He baptized and confirmed nearly a million souls. Among his flock were Rosa de Lima and Martin de Porres. He founded many churches, religious houses, and hospitals, and, in 1591, founded the seminary at Lima.

*Leader:* Peace on each one who comes in need,  
*All:* ***Peace on each one who comes in joy.***

*Leader:* Peace on each one who offers prayers,  
*All:* ***Peace on each one who offers song.***

*Leader:* Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,  
*All:* ***Peace of the Spirit, the triune one.***

## **Psalm 9**

*You, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.*

1 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole heart; •

I will tell of all your marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; •

I will make music to your name, O Most High.

9 Then will the Lord be a refuge for the oppressed, •  
a refuge in the time of trouble.

10 And those who know your name will put their trust  
in you, •

for you, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.

*You, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.*

11 Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion; •  
declare among the peoples the things he has done.

12 The avenger of blood has remembered them; •  
he did not forget the cry of the oppressed.

13 Have mercy upon me, O Lord; •

consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me,  
you that lift me up from the gates of death;

14 That I may tell all your praises in the gates of the  
city of Zion • and rejoice in your salvation.

*You, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.*

## ***Prayer***

*Leader:* O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes to the wonder and beauty of creation,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* O God we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love made known to us in Jesus, and draw us into your presence.

## Reading

### Mark 10:23–30

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For

mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

## *Sharing of the day*

### *Prayer*

*Leader:* We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray \_\_\_\_\_ Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer \_\_\_\_\_ Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight \_\_\_\_\_  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God, silently, someone whom we find hard to like or forgive or trust  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring ourselves to God that we might grow in generosity of spirit,  
clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

**Hymn 554:** Tis the Gift to be Simple

Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right

## *Closing responses*

*Leader:* O Trinity of Love, You have been with us at the world's beginning,

*All:* ***Be with us till the world's end.***

*Leader:* You have been with us at our life's shaping,

*All:* ***Be with us at our life's end.***

*Leader:* You have been with us at the sun's rising

*All:* ***Be with us till the day's end. Amen.***

***All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

***Where there is hatred, let us sow love.***

***Where there is injury, pardon.***

***Where there is doubt, faith.***

***Where there is despair, hope.***

***Where there is sadness, joy.***

***O Divine Master.***

***grant that we may not so much seek***

***to be consoled as to console,***

***to be understood as to understand,***

***to be loved as to love.***

***For it is in giving that we receive,***

***it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,***

***it is in dying that we are born again***

***to everlasting life. Amen.***

*Leader:* And now may the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in believing that you overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* ***Amen.***

