

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Cycle B (April 11, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Acts 4:** The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

**Psalms 118:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is forever.

**John 20:** Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. . . . Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

#### † Comments for the Day

In his three short years of public ministry, Jesus managed to gather a significant number of disciples willing to espouse his non-violent spirit of fraternal and sororal community working toward the common good. Could it be that what brought them to this experience of deep faith and mission was actually seeing and witnessing the astonishing change brought upon the apostles? We're not sure how long this transformation took, but today's gospel gives us a peek into some of the drama it entailed. Thomas represents the part of us all that is afraid of total commitment towards a cause or particular way of life. We tend to move away from the new and unknown and choose to stay with the familiar because we fear what we do not see. The same can be said of our approach to caring for creation, that is the environment, often misunderstood by many in the faith community to be part of some "progressive agenda."

But Jesus is patient and, having been there himself, understands our human condition and its limitations. He shows himself to us as he is, broken body and all. We see him in the parts of our creation that burst with astonishing life, and also in the parts of our world where throbbing wounds are all that is known. Unfortunately, not all of us are able to say that we have even seen him at all. As hard as we try we, like Thomas, find it difficult to see the face and body of Christ around us, broken or whole. Despite our blindness, Jesus is patient and continues to take the first step in order to make himself known to us.

It is the Christian community, devoted to the Spirit of truth, which surrounds those who doubt and shares their burden. This community of believers, by its very life, witnesses to the risen presence of Christ in our midst. Why, then, is there still such suffering and poverty? Surely a community bearing the name of Christ that makes up the religious majority of the planet can bring about such necessary change. It should not tolerate the fact that the poor, the very presence

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of Christ in our midst, are unrecognizable to us. For if the poor are indeed unidentifiable, then so is Christ.

One way that we as believers can help "recognize" the poor is to honor our call to be good stewards of creation. For example, by responsibly using resources like food, we can help save more for those with less, as the early Christians did. By conserving energy, we can help reduce emissions that cause climate-induced drought, flooding, and famine that impact the poor most of all.

This celebration of Easter renews us and gives us again the opportunity to put our hands in the open wounds of Jesus. Like Thomas, our eyes will be open to the living presence of Christ in the wounds of the poor. Here, the doubter is able to pray, "Without seeing you I love you," to which the Lord responds, "Peace be with you."

### † **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. (#23)

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. (#201)

Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also "macro-relationships, social, economic, and political ones" (Benedict XVI). That is why the church set before the world the ideal of a "civilization of love" (Paul VI). (#231)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That the Christian community throughout the world may be more mindful of sharing resources with our sisters and brothers, as one body in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Option 2:** That those who struggle to believe may see the witness of the church, the People of God, as the living and visible presence of Christ, and thus come to pray, "My Lord and my God," let us pray to the Lord.

## Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help>

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