

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Cycle B (28 February 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Genesis 22:** Here I am, he answered. . . [A]nd in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all this because you obeyed my command.

**Romans 8:** If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . [H]ow will he not also give us everything else along with him?

**Mark 1:** And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. . . Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. . . This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.

#### † Comment for the day:

Our first reading today is a difficult one. It comes out of a culture which believed that fathers had life-and-death power over their children. It is hard to justify it if we look at this story through contemporary eyes. We can hardly imagine Abraham's anguish as he and Isaac trudged up Mount Moriah or imagine the emotions in the family tent the next day. The point of the story, however, is that Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only hope of descendants. Descendants who, God had promised, would be more numerous than the stars in the sky. Abraham had faith in God's promise, and now God was demanding a deeper faith. Because of this deeper faith, God gives Abraham a more glorious promise. Abraham was attuned to God's call and answered readily.

Saint Paul tells us that the Father also gave up His son, not for future glory, but for all of humankind. And this gives us hope of other gifts from God in the future, hope that a forgiving God will always be on our side, the God that says "HERE I AM."

Today we reflect on Jesus, God's beloved son, on the mountain with dazzling white garments. We call this incident his Transfiguration, but Jesus does not change into something or someone else. He is revealed as who he really is: God's Beloved. Elijah and Moses appear as witnesses to the fact that Jesus is the one who has come to fulfill the law of Moses and the prophets. Peter wants to hold onto this glorious vision, but the vision has been given to strengthen and deepen their faith that God would always be with them so they can leave the mountaintop and face the suffering that awaits them below.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Pope Francis underscores the message that God will be with us as we seek to be stewards of God's great gifts, including creation. He assures us that God's grace will be with us as we encounter difficulties in tending the blessing of our beautiful planet. This is the greatest legacy we can leave to our children that will come after us. But as the Pope constantly reminds us, commitment to the planet also involves a commitment to the poor, the marginalized, and to those who suffer the effects of injustice. Our vision of a transformed world must include all of our sisters and brothers, along with a dedication to overcome all obstacles that threaten their dignity and happiness.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:**

The culture of relativism is the same disorder which drives one person to take advantage of another...The same kind of thinking leads to the sexual exploitation of children and the abandonment of the elderly. (#123)

Environmental impact assessment should not come after drawing up of a business proposition or the proposal of a particular policy, plan or program...The local population should have a special place at the table; they are concerned about their own future and that of their children. (#183)

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (#205)

God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. (#245)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That during this Lenten season, we attune ourselves to the voice of God in prayer, in the people and events of our lives, and in the natural world, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That our faith might be deepened and strengthened so that we work to leave a beautiful and healthful world to the children of the future, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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