

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, (April 18, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Psalm 4:** Lord, let your face shine on us.

**1 John 2:** Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them.

**Luke 24:** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Last week's readings concentrated on the gift of faith and the sharing of that gift. Today we are challenged to speak out and put flesh on the bones of our faith. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus are still somewhat baffled by the presence of the risen Christ and about recognizing him in the breaking of the bread. Again, Jesus comes into their presence and reassures them that it is he and not a ghost. He opens their minds to understand the scriptures, and they receive the commission to go forth and share the good news about their wonderful experience.

Likewise, Peter, once a coward, now stands before the temple assembly and announces that they, through their ignorance, are responsible for the death of Jesus, the author of life. He is calling them to repent. Peter, suddenly filled with immense courage, assures the assembly that forgiveness will surely be granted because he is a witness and grateful recipient of the Lord's pardon. His offense was no less serious or dreadful than theirs, and yet he was the one called to be the first to lead Christ's church on earth.

We cannot spend these fifty days of Easter just singing the alleluias and telling the story of the empty tomb. There is a world out there that hungers for hope and is thirsting for a way to begin again. This hunger and thirst is not only spiritual, but also physical: millions around the world are suffering the effects of climate change, including drought that leads to famine and to lack of snowmelt for fresh water.

The church could be a powerful instrument of healing and renewal because we have a message that speaks to the heart of the matter with regard to peacemaking, justice, and the environment. But it calls for an honest and open examination of conscience: like Peter, the church has failed in many ways. Yet also like Peter, through the Lord's infinite mercy, it can repent and receive great courage that is given to those who ask for it. The people of God are bound by the mandates of the gospel and the spirit of Vatican II to make the church a powerhouse of change and renewal.

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.

Peter's instruction to "Repent, therefore, and be converted," cannot be dismissed. Today, Pope Francis's ministry of global healing speaks to the world as a herald of change. This call includes care for the poor, justice for the oppressed, and stewardship of God's creation that sustains all life.

We can no longer claim ignorance since we have heard the good news, we have read the warnings, and we have experienced the change. Therefore, our Easter renewal of baptismal vows urges to be as bold as Peter was, to fearlessly make the message known, and then to "practice what we preach." Only then will our faith truly bear fruit.

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

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. (#13)

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)

It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion," whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. (#217)

(This conversion) entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works: "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (Mt. 6:3). It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. (#220)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That the church, the people of God, will have the fortitude and courage to call the world to an ecological conversion and thus heal the world of hunger, disease, and ruin, let us pray to the Lord.

**Option 2:** That the Easter alleluia will resound in a world that is just and peaceful for every living creature, 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>