

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (23 January 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Nehemiah 8:9: Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah ... and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites ... said to all the people: "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep... for today is holy to our LORD."

Psalms 19: Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life ... perfect, refreshing the soul.

1 Cor. 12: 12-13, 18: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, ... and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. ... God placed the parts, each one of them/us, in the body as he intended.

Luke 4:18-19; 21: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

The Bible teaches that every man and woman is created out of love and made in God's image and likeness. This shows us the immense dignity of each person, "who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons." ... How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! (#65)

The experience of the Babylonian captivity provoked a spiritual crisis which led to deeper faith in God. Now his creative omnipotence was given pride of place in order to exhort the people to regain their hope amid their wretched predicament. (#74)

In the Christian understanding of the world, the destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ, present from the beginning: "All things have been created through him and for him". (#90)

It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected. Time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation. (#138)

† **Comment for the day:**

In November, the COP26 international climate change conference in Glasgow, Scotland, made clear that too many of us are failing to take the steps needed to reduce the overheating of earth, our common home. Consequently, all living things are increasingly being threatened. Are we sober and caring enough to do what's needed to reduce the rising temperatures of our planet? Alas, it seems we aren't. The result is increasing glacial melting, rising sea levels, stronger hurricanes, longer droughts, and large numbers of people migrating from their unlivable homeland just to survive.

Jesus came to bring good tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to let the oppressed go free, and to effect a "year acceptable to the Lord." Those of us baptized into Christ are part of the body that is charged with stewardship of creation. It is not enough to simply hope that our climate crisis will be resolved: Each and every one of us needs to act in whatever way he or she can.

Laudato Si' underscores that all creation unfolds in time, journeying toward its ultimate perfection. It is as yet imperfect. Our own trials and imperfections reflect our participation in the wider human story and that of all creation. From the outset, our individual journeys, the journey of the whole human race, and the unfolding of creation itself is borne and sustained by God's love.

Nonetheless, we must do our part. We cannot stand by and hope others will take care of things, or that God will work miracles in spite of our lifestyles and complacency. Each of us needs to educate ourselves about what is happening to our common home, engage ourselves in community action to keep life on our planet sustainable, and advocate for climate action. In essence, we must do what we can with the talents and gifts God has generously provided to us. This is no lonely pilgrimage.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

Option 1: That we use the gifts of the Spirit given to each of us to help alleviate the climate crisis that is threatening all of creation, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we may take to heart Pope Francis' call to care for our common home in simple ways by reducing our wastefulness in our "throwaway culture," let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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