

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Ascension, Cycle B (May 13 or 16, 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Acts 1:** You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, through Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**Ephesians 1:** May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe.

**Mark 16:** Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. ... They went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

#### † Comments for the Day:

Jesus' ascension was not a departure from us but rather a manifestation of his confidence in us. He told the apostles that it was better that he leave them than stay with them bodily. He did not want them, or us, to just stand-by, relying on him to do all that is needed for God's creation to flourish. Rather he relies on us to take care of one another and of creation. He accompanies us now out of sight but he is not "AWOL." Jesus is always with us, guiding us, empowering us, saving us – and the world.

We are called to be among the witnesses needed today. As we believe in Jesus who spoke the truth, our world needs to believe in the truths scientists are telling us about what's happening to our environment and what's needed to keep it healthy. When Jesus' disciples asked him why he spoke in parables, he told them, "Because people look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand." In short, they didn't get it and they didn't want to change. They refused to be enlightened by him because they didn't want to undergo conversion. So it is for us today: we dismiss scientists' warnings about climate change because taking them to heart would mean changing our lifestyles, such as reducing our consumption of energy and natural resources.

Jesus' commission was for his disciples, which includes us, to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Today that means we have to pay attention to what is happening to "every creature," including all the plants and animals on earth that are important participants in life on earth. As Pope Francis has said, we are all interconnected. We have to take

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.

good news to them in deed and enable them to flourish, rather than make them extinct by our indifference and neglect.

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

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. (84)

We need to stop thinking in terms of "interventions" to save the environment in favor of policies developed and debated by all interested parties. (183)

In any discussion about a proposed venture, a number of questions need to be asked in order to discern whether or not it will contribute to genuine integral development [of people, plants, and animals]. . . . For example, . . . water is a scarce and indispensable resource and a fundamental right that conditions the exercise of other human rights. (185)

[Ecological 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. . . . 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 Holy Spirit will inspire us to be witnesses to the power of Christ risen and ascended, as we apply the gospel to difficult questions regarding earth's climate crisis, . . . let us pray to the Lord. . . .

**Option 2:** That Christ risen and ascended will enlighten our hearts and minds as we deal with issues regarding climate change, so we will share the hope that comes from signs that Christ works among us, let us pray to the Lord.

### Further Resources

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

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

*Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.*