

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Cycle C (9 January 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Isaiah 42:1, 3:** Here is my servant ... upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations ...until he establishes justice on the earth.

**Psalms 29:3:** The voice of the LORD is over the waters ... over vast waters. The voice of the Lord is mighty.

**Acts 10:34-38:** God shows no partiality ... in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. ... Jesus Christ, who is lord of all, ... went about doing good and healing all those oppressed...

**Alleluia:** The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: ... Listen to him.

**Luke 3:21-22:** "I am baptizing you with water, ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended...

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

Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (#67)

The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings ... clearly, the Bible has no place for a tyrannical anthropocentrism unconcerned for other creatures. (#68)

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)

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone. If we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all. (#95)

#### † Comment for the day:

The feast of Jesus' baptism reminds us that our baptism also includes a voice from Heaven declaring that we are God's children, with whom God is "well pleased." Having been baptized into Christ, we

carry the responsibility of the caring for our planet so God's creation can sustain life on it without partiality. Creation is good; but our "throwaway culture," as Pope Francis puts it, is polluting and diminishing its goodness. Nations that exploit resources for their industrial and consumerist ways of life are impacting smaller and poorer nations, whose environment is damaged beyond their control.

The cry of the poor and the cry of the earth was sounded around the world recently during the United Nations' international conference on climate change, COP26. Promises have been made by the wealthy to help the poor but have not been delivered. As God called on humankind to listen to Jesus when he was baptized, we who are baptized into Christ are to work with him to do what's needed to care for creation.

Jesus' baptism commissioned him to do the will of God, bringing reconciliation to a world now being overheated and widely polluted by the lifestyles of so many rich that break down so many poor. All things were created through the son who became flesh among us; we are called to work with Christ to do good and make creation whole again. The "justice" that the prophets speak of refers to the order that God intends for our world. As Jesus' followers, we and all Christians share in his mission of reconciliation and renewal, so that the world that God intended from the beginning is made whole and holy.

#### † **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

**Option 1:** For a deeper appreciation of creation and a Catholic commitment to bringing impartial justice to the nations suffering most from climate change, let us pray to the Lord ....

**Option 2:** That we will listen to Jesus and welcome the fire of the Holy Spirit to do what we can to reduce the negative impacts of our lifestyles on God's creation, 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)

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