

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 Easter Sunday, Cycle B (April 4, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Psalm 118: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

John 20: They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.

† Comments for the Day:

Mary Magdalene, the first to arrive at the tomb, is terrified that the body of Jesus has been moved. She reports this to the disciples in hiding who immediately run to the tomb to discover that it is indeed empty. The question is, "Where is the crucified Lord?"

Here we are in the 21st century and faced with the same question. Can it be that the Crucified One is in our very midst in the suffering of millions of people caught in the misery of sickness, poverty, physical abuse, and now the effects of climate change? Yet Mary Magdalene and the other disciples awaken to the memory that Jesus had promised to be with them always. He has not been taken from them; in fact, he has been raised up! There is a new level now to which the disciples and we ourselves are able to experience the Christ: by seeking him through prayer, contemplation, dialog, justice, action, and celebration. This new level of understanding the sacred has such deep implications now, and includes how Christ's presence permeates all of creation, of which we are part. Renewing our baptismal vows today makes each of us compelled to carry on the healing ministry of Jesus. This includes healing a world broken by despair and even death as a result of disease, conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation.

There is hope for our sisters and brothers shrouded in heartache and grief. There is hope, as well, for all created and breathing things because Christ, through whom all things were made, has been raised up to new life. And hope is found in the shared experience and memory of all Jesus' disciples which is the church. Hope is in that power of a people brought back to life when their humanity is restored. Hope is when careful tenderness for the earth brings it to newness and restoration. Hope lives, and it exists even beyond the church, in all people of good will who are committed to restoring creation and respecting the sacredness of all life. This is the springtime of faith: "Let us rejoice and be glad in it." We have died with him, and have been buried and lost with him, but through our baptism we are brought into his risen embrace. The whole cosmos celebrates this reality by standing on tiptoes and singing alleluia!

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his loving and tangible relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship (#100)

Sunday is the day of Resurrection, the “first day” of the new creation, whose first fruits are the Lord’s risen humanity, the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality. (#237)

May our struggles and concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. 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 . . . his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!* (244, 245)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we, the church of God, may be faithful to our baptismal commitment to dialog and to seek justice together, and so draw the whole of creation into the risen life of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That the whole human family may see in itself the very source of peace and equity, and work for the healing of the nations in order to bring the whole world to its original beauty and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources?tid=14>

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