

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (October 13, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

2 Kings 5: [P]lease let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.

Psalms 98: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.... Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

2 Timothy 2: Remember Jesus Christ...such is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship.... But the word of God is not chained.... If we are unfaithful, [Jesus Christ] remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

Luke 17: Jesus, Master; have mercy on us!... One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Beginning in the middle of the last century and overcoming many difficulties, there has been a growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home. (#164)

Politics and business have been slow to react in a way commensurate with the urgency of the challenges facing our world. Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. (#165)

Today, in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life. (#189)

Any technical solution which science claims to offer will be powerless to solve the serious problems of our world if humanity loses its compass, if we lose sight of the great motivations which make it possible for us to live in harmony, to make sacrifices and to treat others well. (#200)

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. (#201)

† **Comment for the day:**

In both readings from the Old Testament we are reminded that the very earth is part of the alliance that God makes with God's people. Naaman learns that God's gifts are free when Elisha refuses a present for the healing. But Naaman comes to an even deeper understanding of the relationship between the God of Israel and the people when he asks for two mule-loads of earth. The earth is the Lord's and it is given to all people. Carrying the earth with him shows that Naaman accepts his responsibility to God, to his sisters and brothers, and to the created world itself. Psalm 98 calls on the earth to break into joyous song, echoing the poem of Francis of Assisi which proclaims the universal fraternity that exists between all of God's creatures.

But while universal fraternity is the vision that God offers for creation, fulfillment of this dream takes commitment and hard work. Paul endures the hardship that comes with faithfully living God's word, a word that will not be chained. As Pope Francis frequently reminds us in *Laudato Si'*, we are called to take the narrow path, to live sober lives, and to promote a lifestyle that will help protect Mother Earth. We must also defend all our sisters and brothers, especially the poorest and most marginalized. The Pope further notes that in spite of past neglect, our generation may yet be remembered for shouldering its grave responsibilities to safeguard our common home. Likewise, St. Paul underlines the theme of hope: "if we are faithless, (Jesus) remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself."

The request of the ten lepers to Jesus is for mercy. Jesus heals them all, regardless of their differences, asking only for their thanks. What is our own response to the Lord of life for all the gifts that we have received?

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: For a deeper awareness, appreciation and gratitude for all the gifts we have been given, and a commitment to use them for the good of our sisters, brothers and our Mother Earth, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For healing in communities that are divided, and for the healing of the earth itself, which is our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

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