

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of Corpus Christi, Cycle B (June 6, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 24: Taking the book of the covenant, [Moses] read it aloud to the people, who answered, “All that the Lord has said, we will heed and do.” Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you...”

Psalms 13: How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

Mark 14: This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many...

† Comments for the Day:

Today’s Scripture passages are a challenge for contemporary readers who are unfamiliar with the meaning of ancient covenants. We struggle to understand the spiritual undertones of what it meant to share in a banquet or be sprinkled with the blood of an animal sacrificed in holocaust. It was much easier for Jesus and his disciples to relate to covenant and sacrifice. In fact, they not only understood these concepts, but were also open to engage in that living tradition, to build upon it in light of a new set of experiences, their own struggles and hopes. They were able to find in those ancient stories and images new levels of meaning.

Faithfulness to that living tradition requires us to resist the tendency toward mummification of our eucharistic tradition. Instead, we are called to explore these ancient stories and images, and to listen to how they resonate with our individual and collective journeys in the contemporary deserts of our lives. The action setting for the first reading is the Sinai Desert; the setting of the gospel story is Jerusalem, the place where Jesus’ passion would later unfold. A homilist may want to explore various contemporary existential settings: how hyper-consumerism fails to satisfy our thirst for deeper meaning and how it damages our communion with God’s creation; the thirst for justice and human dignity in the face of racism and inequality; migrants and refugees displaced by climate change; or the ongoing effects of COVID.

Partaking in the new covenant established by Christ and sharing in the eucharistic banquet have profound spiritual, social, political and ecological implications. Preachers must be sure that the people of God, hungry for meaning and in need of spiritual nourishment, receive these new insights in digestible portions. The Eucharist, as Pope Francis reminds us, can be a powerful force to inspire and empower us in the task of safeguarding God’s creation and working together

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.

for a world of justice, peace and love. May our celebration of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ renew in us the commitment to give of our own body and blood for the good of all our sisters and brothers, and of God's good creation.

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

The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, "creation is projected towards divinization...towards unification with the Creator himself. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. (236)

The day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor. (237)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our devotion to the Eucharist manifest itself in our solidarity with the poor, the marginalized, migrants, refugees and the earth's community of life, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: For the conversion of those who harm or exploit the poor, the vulnerable and the earth. May they realize that what they do to the least, they do to the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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