



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Cycle A (February 2, 2023)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Malachi 3:** Thus says the Lord God: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.

**Hebrews 2:** He had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people.

**Luke 2:** [Simeon] came in the Spirit into the temple... he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

#### † Comments for the Day:

Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke tells the story of a remarkable intergenerational encounter, between the infant Jesus and the elderly Simeon. When Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph, Simeon immediately recognizes him as the long-awaited anointed one, the "light of revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel." How was Simeon able to see Jesus so clearly? Luke tells us that Simeon "came in the Spirit into the temple."; it was through the guidance of the Holy Spirit that Simeon was able to see with the eyes of faith. Simeon is content in his old age, knowing that he has seen the future in the person of the savior Jesus.

Each generation can learn something from such an encounter. A younger generation can benefit from the experience and wisdom of the elders; older people can benefit from the promise and hope of the young. And both are needed to address the ecological crisis facing earth, "our common home." Pope Francis rightly points out that caring for it includes not only the poor and vulnerable living today, but also future generations yet to come who will inherit the earth from older generations. We who are living today, and who have been given the gift of sight to see the needs of our common home, owe it to the young and even the unborn a world in which they can thrive.

The notion of the common good, one aspect of Catholic social teaching, has been cast aside in today's world of "me first" and disregard for others. Let each of us reflect on the common good – a core notion of Pope Francis' encyclical – and then invite others to join us.

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

The common good is the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment. (156)

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. (159)

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. (161)

We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty [that affect] the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment. (229)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we learn to extend the notion of the common good to those who will come after us and to the earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That our Church may always speak and act on behalf of the hungry, the oppressed, and the afflicted, 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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