

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Cycle A (9 April 2017)

Homily Helps

† Comment for the day:

Death is the destiny of every living thing. Nonetheless, our role in creation is not to cause death but to nurture life. By choosing to empty himself, letting go of his divine status, Jesus shared the destiny of all creatures. He came among us to listen and to speak, to serve and to save. He carried out his mission. Then he suffered the fate of us all. He died rather than kill so that all might live. That's why everything and everyone in heaven, on earth and under the earth is to revere him.

We live through many evenings, followed by mornings, followed by evenings again as part of the great flow of existence. But eventually we ourselves will join all the once-living, including Jesus, in a tomb of soil or rock or water. Nonetheless, we trust there will be a next day, a glorious one, a day of new life. Just as we trust in the God who gives life, should we not as God's stewards be a source of life for all God's creatures?

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 50: The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear[.]

Psalm response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Philippians 2: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death[.]...Because of this, God greatly exalted him[.]

Matthew 26,27: When it was evening... When it was morning... When they came to the place called Golgotha – which means Place of the Skull –. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land... When it was evening... Taking the body, Joseph of Arimathea wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock... The next day...

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

While human intervention on plants and animals is permissible when it pertains to the necessities of human life, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that experimentation on animals is morally acceptable only "if it remains within reasonable limits [and] contributes to caring for or saving human lives". The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that "it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly". (#130)

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.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note (cont.):

If an artist cannot be stopped from using his or her creativity, neither should those who possess particular gifts for the advancement of science and technology be prevented from using their God-given talents for the service of others. We need constantly to rethink the goals, effects, overall context and ethical limits of this human activity, which is a form of power involving considerable risks. (#131)

[I]t is troubling that, when some ecological movements defend the integrity of the environment, rightly demanding that certain limits be imposed on scientific research, they sometimes fail to apply those same principles to human life. There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos. We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development... As we have seen in this chapter, a technology severed from ethics will not easily be able to limit its own power. (#136)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: May God guide the experiments of skilled scientists so they enhance life – plant, animal and human – and never to diminish, harm or destroy it needlessly, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: May God the Creator give all of us a true appreciation of and respect for all living creatures – humans, animals, and plants – as sacred bearers of his gift of generosity, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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