

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 Feast of the Ascension, Cycle A (May 18, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 1: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ... While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?"

Psalms 47: God mounts his throne with shouts of joy ... God reigns over the nations.

Ephesians 1: May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call.

Matthew 28: Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.... And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

† Comments for the Day:

In 2015 Pope Francis issued his landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. It calls us to a profound ecological conversion, moving us toward greater care for creation and care for the poor. This year we have another opportunity to celebrate *Laudato Si' Week* (May 21-28), this year under better circumstances than in the pandemic past. The pandemic still injures many persons and does severe damage to God's creation. As our economies and societies have begun to flourish again, it's important that we persist in rebuilding in ways that are more equitable and sustainable for both people and the planet.

Today's Feast of the Ascension is a fitting reminder of our call to take up this sacred work. As Jesus took leave of his followers, he gave them instructions about the work they were to do – making disciples of all the nations, working to build his kingdom here on earth. He also assured them that they would be given the power necessary to do so, and that he would be with them in that mission. Now, it's our time. It is our responsibility to do the work needed as children of God who have been gifted with this "common home" that God prepared for us all.

Laudato Si' Week is a time of both celebration and mission: celebrating the incredible gift of God's creation, and recommitting ourselves to the mission of caring for that creation. In short, we have to work to make things better, not just hope. As Pope Francis reminds us, the Spirit, the

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infinite bond of love, is present in all parts of the universe. May we be moved by that Spirit of love to true ecological conversion and readiness to heal.

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

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. (218)

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)

Social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society. (231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: May all who are suffering because of environment degradation like climate change know the love and support of God as we all labor to care for creation, we pray to the Lord....

Option 1: In the spirit of Saint Francis, may we be models of care for all the living creatures who are our sisters and brothers, as well as the earth that sustains them, we pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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