

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Cycle B (February 25, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 22: "Here I am!" he answered.... "And in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all this because you obeyed my command."

Romans 8: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Mark 1: And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white... "Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"... "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

† Comments for the Day:

Our first reading today is a difficult one. It comes out of a culture which believed that fathers had life-and-death power over their children. It is hard to justify it if we look at this story through contemporary eyes. We can hardly imagine Abraham's anguish as he and Isaac trudged up Mount Moriah, or the emotions in the family tent the next day.

The point of the story, however, is that Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only hope of descendants – descendants who, God had promised, would be more numerous than the stars in the sky. Abraham had faith in God's promise, and now God was demanding a deeper faith. Because of Abraham's faith and obedience, God gives him a more glorious promise. Abraham was attuned to God's call and answered readily.

Saint Paul tells us that the Father also gave up His son, not for future glory, but for all of humankind. And this gives us hope for other gifts from God in the future, hope that a forgiving God will always be on our side, even when we seem to fall short or lose faith.

Today, we reflect on Jesus on the mountain with dazzling white garments. We call this event his Transfiguration. But Jesus does not change into something or someone else: he is revealed as who he really is: God's beloved son. Elijah and Moses appear as witnesses to the fact that Jesus is the one who has come to fulfill the law of Moses and the prophets. Peter wants to hold onto this glorious vision, but the vision has been given to strengthen and deepen their faith that God would always be with them. In this way, they can leave the height of the mountaintop and face the suffering that awaits them below.

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.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis underscores the message that God will be with us as we strive to be stewards of God's great gifts, including creation. He assures us that God's grace will be with us as we encounter difficulties in tending the blessing of our beautiful planet, our common home. This is the greatest legacy we can leave to our children that will come after us.

But as the pope constantly reminds us, commitment to the planet also involves a commitment to the poor, the marginalized, and all who suffer from injustice – including ecological injustice. Our vision of a transformed world must include all of our sisters and brothers, along with a dedication to overcome all obstacles that threaten their life, dignity, and happiness.

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

Christians in their turn “realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith”. It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions. (64)

Environmental impact assessment should not come after drawing up of a business proposition or the proposal of a particular policy, plan or program... The local population should have a special place at the table; they are concerned about their own future and that of their children. (183)

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start... No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. (205)

God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. (245)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That during this Lenten season, we attune ourselves to the voice of God in prayer, in the people in our lives, and in the natural world, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That our faith might be deepened and strengthened so that we work to leave a beautiful and healthful world to our children and grandchildren, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

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