

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 5th Sunday of Lent, Cycle B (March 17, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Jeremiah 31: I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Psalms 51: Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.

Hebrews 5: Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered.

John 12: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

† Comments for the Day:

As Easter draws near, today's readings offer a meditation on courage, sacrifice, sorrow, love, and forgiveness. The Spirit of God is with Jesus, and where God is there is life.

Jesus predicts his suffering and death, but in a metaphor, he assures us that he himself will willingly be broken open for the salvation of the world. He invites his disciple – and us – to undergo suffering for the sake of his gospel. Indeed, he challenges us to undergo suffering for the sake of all humanity. Our calling as Jesus disciples is to do what we can, however difficult, to work for a world with a climate that fosters human growth and bountiful life.

Today, four U.S. banks are the top funders of fossil-fuel extraction, a quarter of all global funding for a "business-as-usual," carbon-intensive energy strategy. As of January 2024, however, five major insurance companies have officially abandoned involvement in the East African crude-oil pipeline, joining 23 others who have done the same. This is indeed good news for "our common home"!

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. (19)

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. (23)

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 in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”... Thus, the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them toward fullness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence. (100)

Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says, “I will make all things new”. Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all. (243)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our awareness of the mystery of Christ in all creation leads us to care for God's creation here on earth, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we may look to Jesus to inspire us to lead our lives with courage and love, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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