

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Easter Sunday, Cycle B (March 31, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 10: "He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

1 Corinthians 5: Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

John 20: Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

† Comments for the Day:

The themes of life, starting anew and doing God's, dovetails well with the message of hope with which Pope Francis concludes *Laudato Si'*. In the gospel reading, the disciples believed but did not fully understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead. They also didn't understand that in his resurrection he invites all his followers to participate in the task of overcoming death in all its forms.

As Jesus had gone about doing the will of his Father and healing all those oppressed by the devil, so are we as his disciples commissioned to go forth and heal the ills of our world today. Paul also invites us to recommit ourselves to this task, clearing out the old yeast and becoming a fresh batch of dough able to serve as yeast for all.

In his encyclical, Pope Francis mentions the Earth Charter of 2002, which calls us to a new reverence for life. He invites us to promote the common task of protecting all our sisters and brothers, along with all of creation. Everything has been gifted to us by an all-loving God. Pope Francis reminds us that all Sundays are celebrations of the Resurrection, and Sunday is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with self, with others and with creation.

Our celebration of Jesus' resurrection brings us hope for new life for ourselves and the world. May we find new hope in the signs that our culture is becoming more aware of the need to "care for our common home."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." (207)

Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the "first day" of the new creation, whose first fruits are the Lord's risen humanity, the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality. It also proclaims "man's eternal rest in God." (237)

Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you! (246)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our loving God may help us to join with all people of goodwill in protecting the dignity of our sisters and brothers, as well as earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That our gracious God may give us the courage to clean out the old dough and be yeast for all, calling for a new commitment to build God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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