

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 2nd Sunday of Easter, Cycle B (April 7, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 4: The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

Psalm 118: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

John 20: As the Father has sent me so I send you.

† Comments for the Day

Pope Francis was impeded by poor health from attending the climate change conference held in Dubai in December of 2023, but he put on paper the urgent message he felt moved to share at that time. He wrote: *Sadly, I am unable to be present with you, as I had greatly desired. Even so, I am with you, because time is short. I am with you because now more than ever, the future of us all depends on the present that we now choose.*

The future depends on the present we now choose! We can almost imagine Jesus stating similar sentiments as he appeared to those gathered in the upper chamber that evening after he rose from the dead.

Francis continues: *I am with you to raise the question which we must answer now: Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death? To all of you I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future!*

Those sentiments are addressed to us as we gather to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and selfishness. The risen Lord invites us once again today to be attentive to the cry of the poor and the cry of the planet. The marks of his Passion are present to us currently in the wounds displayed in the heart and on the face of those displaced, despised, discriminated against.

The poor and the planet suffer the consequences of the crown of thorns which continues to wound the head of Christ; the spike of indifference, of conspicuous consumption, of mindless waste. Our common home is being stripped for the benefit of those powerful enough to grab all the benefits they can, and we stand blinded by habit and immobilized by our sense of impotence in the face of such greed and self-promotion.

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.

Open-handed and disinterested service win out in the end, as Jesus' triumph which we celebrate today gives witness. Jesus' mission has been handed on to us to help accomplish with the aid of his Spirit. Jesus' message, couched in the words of his vicar, Pope Francis, is always timely, always significant: choose life, life in abundance, for all, not just for some.

Let us emerge from the narrowness of self-interest and nationalism; these are approaches belonging to the past. Let us join in embracing an alternative vision: this will help to bring about an ecological conversion, for there are no lasting changes without cultural changes. Let us leave behind our divisions and unite our forces! And with God's help, let us emerge from the dark night of wars and environmental devastation in order to turn our common future into the dawn of a new and radiant day. (Laudate Deum #70)

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

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)

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. (#201)

Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships, social, economic, and political ones” (Benedict XVI). That is why the church set before the world the ideal of a “civilization of love” (Paul VI). (#231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Christian community throughout the world may be more mindful of sharing resources with our sisters and brothers, as one body in the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That those who struggle to believe may see the witness of the church, the People of God, as the living and visible presence of Christ, and thus come to pray, “My Lord and my God,” let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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