

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of Corpus Christi, Cycle B (June 2, 2024)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Mark 14: "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him."

† Comments for the Day:

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi, commemorates our common faith and adoration. We remember and reflect on how the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives. In his Corpus Christi homily, Pope Francis calls the Eucharist food for the journey or medicine for the sick. The Eucharist is also an invitation to go deeper and ponder its mystery and meaning—the images in today's Gospel hint at how to proceed.

The disciples ask Jesus where they are to make preparations for the Passover meal. Jesus tells them to go into the city, and they will find a man carrying a water jar. Then he said, “follow him.” Many preachers might overlook this scene, for it is so mundane and every day. The disciples went to the hustle and bustle of the city, the center of worldly activity of commerce, travelers, soldiers, and beggars. Without a beast of burden, an unknown person carries the heavy weight of water in the heat of the day. Was he one of the poor, a servant, or slave working for someone else? Not knowing where they were going, the disciples trusted and followed him to where they celebrated the Passover meal.

There is something concrete and worldly about the Eucharist. In the fourth century, Augustine, just before communion, would elevate the Eucharistic Bread and Wine to the congregation with these words, “Receive what you are and be what you receive.” How might we interpret these words? By becoming what we believe. Receive the Body of Christ and be the Body of Christ to those who hunger and thirst for justice. The community is transformed and goes forth “to the city,” to those who are suffering, to those longing for the Gospel.

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis reminds us that we discover Christ not only in the depths of our hearts but also in the world. This places a certain responsibility on caring for creation. *The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours . . . Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.* (236)

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.

The disciples of Jesus were sent into the city to find a man carrying a water jar. Was he carrying clean or polluted water? How do we “carry” the cries of the Earth and the cries of the poor? *This is my Body. This is my Blood.*

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

The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours. . . Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. (236)

On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. 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. . . Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor. (237)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our devotion to the Eucharist manifests itself in our solidarity with the poor, the marginalized, migrants, refugees and the earth’s community of life; let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: For the conversion of those who harm or exploit the poor, the vulnerable, and the earth. May they realize that what they do to the least, they do to the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

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Webpage: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources?tid=14>

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