

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for The Epiphany of the Lord, Cycle C (5 January 2025)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Isaiah 60:** [Y]ou shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of the nations shall be brought to you...

**Psalms 72:** [The king] shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

**Ephesians 3:** You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.

**Matthew 2:** (Magi from the east) prostrated themselves before (the child) and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

#### † Comment for the day:

Both Saint Paul and the Magi were challenged to stretch not only their beliefs but also how they lived their lives. Paul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, who came to belief in Jesus. That turned his world upside down. In his letter to the Ephesians, he speaks of God's stewardship of grace that was given to him. In light of his encounter with Christ, he came to understand *stewardship* in a new and deeper way.

Like today's Magi's and Paul's, we are all called to care for our sisters and brothers, indeed for our world. In his *Laudato Si'* encyclical, Pope Francis speaks of a fidelity to our Creator, the God who created the world for everyone. *In this time of climate crisis*, we need to understand in new ways the exercises of stewardship our world needs. As God's stewards, we are to "till" and to "keep" the world in which we live.

Led by a star, **the Magi made a pilgrimage** which took them from their own lands to a distant place. There they discovered "the newborn king of the Jews". Arriving at their destination, they did the child homage. The precious gifts that they offered were those in keeping with their status. Now we are invited to share our particular gifts, those commensurate with our own status and abilities. In our desire to be faithful to God, our gifts should be used to control both our earth's temperature and the fundamental rights of the poor and underprivileged. As we contemplate this responsibility, we do well to keep before us the challenging example of the Magi when they did homage. They "opened their treasures" to honor our Lord.

Saint Francis of Assisi was captivated by the reflection of God he saw in all that exists. With him, we too praise God in Brother Sun, Sister Moon and all creatures. We are called to praise God and to work with our Creator to assure the health of Mother Earth and of our own health. In this new year we will all do well when we act out of a spirit of praise, awe, reverence and fraternal love.

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.

## Homily Helps (cont.)

### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to “till and keep” the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15). “Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means caring, protecting, overseeing and protecting. (#67)

When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi... (#87)

Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged. (#93)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That recognizing the beauty of creation should inspire us to care for and defend our world and all peoples who inhabit it, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That like the Magi, we should consider to leave aside our comfortable ways and seek effective solutions to the challenges we face in today’s world, let us pray to the Lord....

## Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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