

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 5th Sunday of Lent, Cycle C (April 6, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 43: See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Psalms 126: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Philippians 3: Straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal.

Comments for the Day:

Those who are interested in something new, generally, are the people dissatisfied with what is currently going on. In many cases, they are those who have been left out, excluded, not taken into account. These are the ones thought less of, treated differently, longing from the depths of their heart for something new, better, different. The newness spoken of in today's readings is much more than a replacement for what has worn out. It is a spectacular newness, a newness beyond compare.

The scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel passage are mean-spirited; they intend on using the woman caught in adultery, not to take into account, her humanity, her shame, her dignity. They consider her an object, rather than a person. We take note of Jesus' reaction to their despicable behavior: he does not hate them, nor wish them dead or eliminated from the face of the earth. He loves them, takes the time to encourage them to recapacitate, to consider the humanity of the woman they are using and abusing to bait an indignant response from Jesus.

Jesus sees them and her as persons, not hating them but rather inviting them to recognize our common humanity, our destiny to be the image and likeness of a loving, forgiving, caring God. Jesus seeks something new for them, inviting them to become more fully human, more caring for persons, particularly for those in need, like the woman they have shamed and humiliated rather than cared for and comforted.

The invitation Jesus pronounces in today's scripture is made also to us, not only to the Pharisees and scribes and the woman caught in adultery. To us, who recognize that we have failed to care for and respect our common home, our common humanity. We want to feel that we are more deserving, worth more in our own eyes, wishing it to be the same in the eyes of others, in the eyes of God.

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.

Jesus does not hate the Pharisees and scribes and the woman caught in adultery; does not humiliate them, but rather loves them, invites them to recognize our own limitations and seek our common commitment to be truly free again, as free as we were created to be, free of arrogance, desire for vengeance, of self-justification and self-promotion. But rather called to be loving and caring for ourselves, for others, for our common home, for God.

To think otherwise is to be guilty of the fundamental sin of the garden – hubris. We see the consequences of this sin in violence and war, stealing and in the effects of climate change; in raging chaotic waters that destroy everything in its path; in dried up farmland aching for refreshment, and in loss of mountain snowmelt that millions depend on for life.

Climate change is dismantling the beautiful world of God's creation, of which we are a part. It is undoing God's life-enhancing order. It will continue to worsen unless we, as a society, and as stewards of God's marvelous creation, accept the challenge from Pope Francis to "care for our common home."

† 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)

Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. (28)

Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people. (31)

Interdependence obliges us to think of *one world with a common plan*....sustainable and diversified agriculture, developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy, encouraging a more efficient use of energy, promoting a better management of marine and forest resources, and ensuring universal access to drinking water. (164)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we open ourselves to the power of God that can transform our faulty attitude toward elements of the natural world.

Option 2: That we learn to care for life-giving water, to ensure there is enough clean water for everyone who needs it.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.

