

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 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the LORD, Cycle C (April 13, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 50: That I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.

Phil 2: He emptied himself, ... he humbled himself. God greatly exalted himself to.

Luke 22: "This is my body, which will be given for you... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

Comments for the Day:

Part of the new creation to which this holy week invites us, involves dying to ourselves – to our selfishness, indifference in the face of great need, to our overconsumption and waste - emptying ourselves of our pride and prejudice, allowing ourselves to become all that God determined from the beginning of time that we are called to be: part of one family, enjoying and sharing a common home.

Jesus comes to us this holy week not proudly prancing in princely pomp but, rather, humbly assuming the role of the servant, inviting not imposing, serving not enslaving, encouraging us to recognize our common humanity, our contribution and participation in the work of creation, God's beautiful and bounteous gift to all, for all, forever.

The passage describing Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem recalls the standard royal entrance procession of the day when people would gather around and cheer the arriving royalty. However, Jesus does not enter the city on a mighty warhorse, as did so many conquering heroes.

He chose a meek and unassuming colt, which served to communicate the character of its rider. The symbolism is striking, and words of explanation are unnecessary.

God is exalted when we recognize the goodness in ourselves and one another, in nature as well, and we strive to serve and share what is given so freely. Relying on God, striving to become more like God by sharing *generously* – as God shares shared with us, is the testimony of Jesus. He invites us to bind ourselves together in the ongoing process of growth toward our common destiny.

The symbolism of binding oneself with others by sharing the same food, becomes more than symbolism in this first holy week. Together, we recall, commemorate, and commit ourselves to make God present in our lives today, here and now.

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.

Climate change has dried up the fruit of the field and the fruit of the vine; it has left animals like the one Jesus mounted to enter Jerusalem to starve in the woods. It cripples our bodies as it destroys our food; it defiles our spirits as it desecrates our religious symbols. There is no religious remembrance where earth is violated.

As stewards of God's creation and protectors of life, we are called to "care for our common home," as Pope Francis so eloquently asks of us in *Laudato Si'*. And this includes doing what we can to reduce our consumption of energy and resources that contribute to climate change. However, like the humble Jesus on the unassuming colt, we need to humble ourselves in order to fulfill our calling to care for creation.

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

Once we lose our humility...we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. It is not easy to promote this kind of healthy humility or happy sobriety when we...think that our subjective feelings can define what is right and what is wrong. (224)

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. (233)

It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Grace, which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man and gave himself as food for his creatures. (236)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we learn to respect and value every aspect of the natural world, for it manifests some dimension of the glory of the creator.

Option 2: That we take the necessary political steps to undo those practices that contribute to climate change so that the fruit of the field and the fruit of the vine might flourish.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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