

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (May 4, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 5: They left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

Revelation 5: Then I heard every creature on heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever."

John 21: And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized that it was the Lord.

† Comments for the Day:

The Jubilee 2025 readings for today sketch the development of the realization of the power and wonder of the resurrection. They move us Pilgrims of Hope from the initial hesitation of the disciples in proclaiming belief in the risen Lord, through the fearless preaching of Jesus' early followers, to the praise and rejoicing of all creation before the heavenly throne.

After the day of the resurrection some of the apostles went back to their former lives. The events of the past days were too much for them. They did not know what to do, so they picked up again the life they knew. It was only after the astonishing catch of fish that they realized the identity of the stranger standing on the shore. He revealed himself to them by demonstrating his power over that aspect of the natural world that they knew so well, but were unable to accomplish by themselves. Their realization of the fact of the resurrection was beginning to grow.

The reading from Acts describes the apostles as fearless in their proclamation of the resurrection. Not even imprisonment could deter their enthusiastic preaching. Just as Christ revealed himself to the fishermen at the Sea of Tiberias, so the Holy Spirit had taken hold of these followers as Pilgrims of Hope. The power of the resurrection is taking over. Likewise, the Spirit calls each of us to proclaim God's glory – including through His earthly creation. Too often we forget that each living thing created by God has its place within our "common home." Increasingly, all of creation is more dependent on human care and stewardship – an awesome responsibility indeed.

Finally, it is in the vision of the heavenly throne room that we hear, "Everything in the universe cry out...blessing and honor, glory and might." No creature is absent from this heavenly choir. All give praise to the Lamb. Though this is a vision of the future, that future begins to take shape

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a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

here on earth, God's creation. We are only beginning to realize the power of the resurrection, and to appreciate that we are not the only creatures that praise God. But as stewards of creation and Pilgrims of Hope, we are the ones charged with protecting and caring for it.

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

Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things . . . Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection. (77)

All creatures are moving forward with us and through us toward a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their creature. (83)

Thus, the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence. (100)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That all of us Pilgrims of Hope will open ourselves to all creatures which Jesus holds closely to himself so he can direct us towards the fullness of existence, let us pray ...

Option 2: That we Pilgrims of Hope will care for earth, our common home, so we will recognize the splendor of the risen Christ in God's beautiful creation, let us pray ...

Further Resources

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