

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (May 25, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 15: The Apostles and the elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives ... "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities...."

Psalm 67: O God, let all the nations praise you. May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.

Revelation 21: The angel ... showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. ... I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb.

John 14: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him/her, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. ... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

† Comments for the Day:

This week's scriptures emphasize the themes of community and communion. In the first reading, the apostles and elders talk about the dissensions and debates that arose, and how they chose to make decisions communally. The second reading imagines the holy city of Jerusalem coming down from heaven gleaming with the splendor of God. The city therefore was radiant with precious stones and clear as crystal, but it lacked a temple or cathedral, even a parish church, because God and the Lamb dwelt in the city and made it the temple.

On a larger scale, the temple was not just the city but also the planet on which the city of God settled. God dwells in all creation. Because all of creation has been entrusted to us from the beginning, we must care for our planet and all creation with renewed reverence, especially during this Jubilee Year, just as we do for our human-built temples or churches. The Gospel of John then emphasizes God's indwelling, the intimate communion that Jesus and the Father offer all of those who love God and the creation among which He dwells.

Pope Francis urges us to approach care for the environment as a community: local, national, interfaith, and international. We need to see the presence of God in the material things of this world. The Christian vision of the New Jerusalem then is a vision of the fullness of that presence

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

of God in our midst here on earth. Aware of that vision, we Pilgrims of Hope view all creatures with reverence. We join with them in that intimate communion between God and all beings which, as a result of the resurrection, we know is already at work in our world. So it is, as Pope Francis points out, in the Eucharist, Jesus is with us most intimately in a mere morsel of bread.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells us that he will give us a peace much greater than what the world gives. Because our lives are overly influenced by consumerism, we miss much of God's splendid indwelling. The result is that we too often experience neither peace nor freedom, nor a sense of wonder. Rather we suffer anxiety that leads us to forget the common good -- the needs of the poor and of earth itself. Happiness will come when we can live lives that are compassionate and contemplative, lives of deep enjoyment free of obsession with consumption.

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

Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. . . . When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. (203, 204)

Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. (222)

A community can break out of the indifference induced by consumerism. These actions cultivate a new identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way the world and quality of life for the poorest are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. (232)

Christianity does not reject matter. Rather, corporeality is considered in all its value in the liturgical act, whereby the human body is disclosed in its inner nature as a temple of the Holy Spirit and is united with the Lord Jesus who himself took a body for the world's salvation. (235)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: Mindful that Jesus dwells among us and brings the gift of peace, may we Pilgrims of Hope deepen that gift by living as he taught us to live here on earth, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That in this Jubilee 2025 Year we may, as Pope Francis asks, "discover the action of God in the soul, but also discover God in all things," let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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