

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross, Cycle B (September 14, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Numbers 21:4b-9: So, the people complained against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!” ... Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD to take the serpents from us.” So, Moses prayed for the people,

Psalms 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38: But they deceived him with their mouths, lied to him with their tongues. Their hearts were not constant toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.

Philippians 2:6-11: Though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance,

John 3: 13-17: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life

† Comments for the Day:

In this Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4/St. Francis Feast Day), today's reading from the Book of Numbers stated that the people of Israel complained against God and Moses. They complained because on the way, they became impatient, squandering the spiritual gifts that came from their special relationship with our Creator. God responded with divine wrath against the people, an expression of the depth of his deeply personal, unrequited love – passionate, but patient. In the end, God held out mercy, allowing the people of Israel to regain their senses and reestablish their relationship with their Creator.

Like the people of Israel, we find ourselves ungrateful for God's gift of planet earth, and thus, we are now wallowing in a poisonous and degraded biosphere. Happily, there are some indications that we human beings – like the Israelites– are beginning to come to our senses.

The encyclical *Laudato Si'* has framed the ecological challenge we face by raising questions that are both environmental and profoundly human. The fact that people of diverse beliefs and political persuasion have praised the encyclical is a sign of hope that can lead us to our own healing. Today's feast of the Exultation of the Cross invites us to be humble after the humble Christ who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with 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.

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

Sister (Earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.... The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail". (#2)

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes. ... The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. We need to reflect on our accountability before those who will have to endure the dire consequences. (#161)

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal. When we ask ourselves what kind of world we want to leave behind, we think in the first place of its general direction, its meaning and its values. ... What is the purpose of our life in this world? Why are we here? (#160)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That Pope Leo's call for moral responsibility to care for our common home will find fertile ground in our hearts for a brighter future for our children, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That the scientists who are warning us about dire consequences of the massive extinctions we are causing will help convince our human family to come to its senses and look for God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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