

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (February 8, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 58: Light shall rise for you in the darkness

Psalms 112: The heart is firm, trusting in the Lord

1 Corinthians 2: I came to you... proclaiming the mystery of God, ...Jesus Christ, crucified

Matthew 5: You are salt...light of the world...glorify your heavenly Father

† Comments for the Day:

Systems change through shifts in behavior. Isaiah advocates for a change in attitude toward the poor, the hungry, the stranger, and the naked. The “cry of the poor” is always present. The prophet goes further by confronting systems of injustice and oppression, which are fueled by lies and what we would now call “disinformation,” with the light of truth and goodness.

Engaging with works of mercy and confronting systems of injustice requires a strong foundation of faith and trust in God. Psalm 112 reminds us that, despite challenges, light always overcomes darkness.

We live amidst tension and paradoxes. St. Paul urges the community to discern the difference between the logic of the world and God's will. Those who are “no nothings” carry the message and deeper meaning of the mystery of God and “him crucified.”

Despite the obstacles, Matthew's Gospel tells Jesus' followers they have a great responsibility. They are the salt and light of the earth. The light of good deeds and a just social order must shine out. The gospel is about the courage needed to do the right thing.

Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* is basically a message to humanity about the state of the world we call “our common home” (Cf. LS 16). Our way of living and attitudes toward what is essential are ruining the ecosystems we rely on for survival. The crucified peoples - those who are poor, hungry, and migrant are crying for our attention. The earth also laments the exploitation, questioning whether the next generation will have a future. These cries of the crucified peoples and the planet challenge our barriers of indifference, lies, and profit. The question is: What change in my behavior is necessary? How do I allow God's power to work through me? Does the community confront the reality of what it really is and be “salt” and “light” in the world?

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:

Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded. (25)

Economic interests easily end up trumping the common good and manipulating information so that their own plans will not be affected...the most one can expect is superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern for the environment, whereas any genuine attempt by groups within society to introduce change is viewed as a nuisance based on romantic illusions or an obstacle to be circumvented. (54)

If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn “realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith”.^[36] It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions. (64)

The fact is that “contemporary man has not been trained to use power well”,^[84] because our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience. Each age tends to have only a meagre awareness of its own limitations. It is possible that we do not grasp the gravity of the challenges now before us. “The risk is growing day by day that man will not use his power as he should”; in effect, “power is never considered in terms of the responsibility of choice which is inherent in freedom” since its “only norms are taken from alleged necessity, from either utility or security.” (105)

The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that "realities are greater than ideas." (201)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we will reach out to the poor and most vulnerable, who are disproportionately impacted by climate change, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we may be salt of the earth and light of the world by promoting efforts to address climate justice, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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