

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (April 12, 2026)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Acts 2:** All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

**1 Peter 1:** Although you have not seen him you love him.

**John 20:** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

#### † Comments for the Day:

Peace. Who among us does not want peace! And yet we choose to abdicate our own responsibility to be builders of peace, preferring to put that burden on God alone, praying that God give us the peace we so much long for. The celebration of Jesus's passion, death and resurrection encourages us to become active agents of peace, true peacemakers. The passage from Acts today deals specifically with the fledgling Christian community coming to grips with the edification of a new society, highlighting the importance for all human beings to share in the benefits of this new life.

Peace is the gift and challenge that Jesus offers to the disciple in his post-resurrection visits. *Laudato Si'* makes special reference to the need for peace, pointing out that true inner peace is not unrelated to ecology and the common good. If lived authentically, inner peace is reflected in a balanced lifestyle that helps protect all creatures and the earth.

Peace is not a passive concept, something that God gives to us in response to our prayer. Peace is active, always in process, always in need of those willing to work for it.

Everything is interconnected. When we strive to isolate ourselves from others, or choose to forget our call to enter into a healthy relationship with the rest of creation, peace falls apart. The quality of human existence is immeasurably enhanced when we place it its center concern for the dignity of all women and men, and for all of God's creation, as well. As the hymn reminds us, "Let there be peace on earth – and let it begin with me."

Pope Leo has made peace a central theme of his pontificate, describing it as both a gift from God and a human mission requiring concrete action. This Paschal season provides an opportunity to prepare our hearts to become advocates of peace in a world crippled by violence and hate. Pope Leo's own words on peace inspire and challenge us:

- "Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words."

- "Let us disarm words, and we will help to disarm the world."
- "Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others, and speak about others."
- "War does not solve problems. On the contrary, it amplifies them and causes deep wounds in the history of peoples—wounds that take generations to heal. No military victory can ever compensate for a mother's pain, a child's fear, or a stolen future."
- "The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return, once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves but walking alongside one another."
- "If you want peace, prepare institutions of peace—not just political institutions, but educational, economic, and social ones as well."
- "He who does not accept peace as a gift will not be able to give it away."

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

Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. ... A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal. (202)

An adequate understanding of spirituality consists in filling out what we mean by peace, which is much more than the absence of war. Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life. (225)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we might seek to change our lifestyle in ways that will help us become bridge builders who seek peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That our breaking bread together might lead us to an ever-deeper commitment to promoting peace and the common good of all, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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