

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 The Resurrection of the Lord, Cycle A (April 5, 2026)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 10: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did."

John 20: For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

† Comments for the Day:

Pope Leo XIV in his recent letter to all Christians on love for the poor, revealed to us his deep personal concern when he stated: *I often wonder, even though the teaching of Sacred Scripture is so clear about the poor; why many people continue to think that they can safely disregard the poor. For the moment, though, let us pursue our reflection on what the Scriptures have to tell us about our relationship with the poor and their essential place in the people of God.*

Jesus' resurrection which we celebrate today is the foundation of our faith. Easter is not merely a moment to recall what God did for his People in the past but rather calls us not only to receive the gift of new life, but also to bear witness to the possibility of a new lifestyle – one more in line with our call to be one family, caring for our common home that is meant to be shared by all.

A cornerstone of Pope Leo's letter on love for the poor is the Augustinian concept of the Whole Christ, which holds that the Church and Christ are one body, with Christ as the head and all believers as members. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that we are called to build together a better world for all, to be shared by all, not merely enjoyed by a few.

Our renewed baptismal promises commit us once again to grow toward the new heaven and new earth, the new community that has been announced and inaugurated but still needs our dedication and energy to build up with God's guidance and strength. We recall that this is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience, but of the very essence of following Christ in a new lifestyle.

Everything has been gifted us by an all-loving God. Each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection and is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with self, with others and with creation. This knowledge compels us to be the good stewards of creation that God had intended from the very beginning.

As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, which brings us hope for new life for ourselves and the entire world, may we find new hope in the signs that our culture is becoming more aware of the need to care for the earth, our common home, and for the poor among us. As Pope Leo reminds us, *God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest*".

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

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... Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction. (204)

A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power... "Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act". Today, in a word, "the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle". (206)

† **Passages from *On Love for the Poor* to Note:**

I consider it essential to insist on this path to holiness, for "in this call to recognize him in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate." (3)

No Christian can regard the poor simply as a societal problem; they are part of our "family." They are "one of us." Nor can our relationship to the poor be reduced to merely another ecclesial activity or function. (104)

The many forms of indifference we see all around us are in fact "signs of an approach to life that is spreading in various and subtle ways. What is more, caught up as we are with our own needs, the sight of a person who is suffering disturbs us. These are symptoms of an unhealthy society: a society that seeks prosperity but turns its back on suffering. (107)

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

Option 1: That our loving God may give us the grace to promote the dignity of all of our sisters and brothers, and to protect our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That our gracious God may give us the courage to respond with gratitude and generosity to the gift of new life, renewing our commitment to build the reign of God, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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