

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Cycle A, (March 1, 2026)

Homily Helps

+ Scripture Passages to Note:

Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

John 3 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

+ Comments for the Day:

Right now the world is looking for help. One ecological disaster right after the other tells us that God's people are being harmed by nature - nature we can't control. God gave us this world as a gift and even though we opened that gift with great joy, we have not honored the gift and have even walked away from it. The mountains, hills, valleys, lakes, rivers - all of creation calls to us in crisis. Will we answer the call? We can with God's help and through vehicles He provides.

God is watching us to see if we will turn to Him and allow God to save this world. There are people all over the world who are working to save our planet, our home. One place is the Catholic Ecology Center (CEC) in Nesho, WI whose mission is to deepen faith and foster a stewardship ethic through hands-on encounters with the natural world. This is done through educational programming, retreats, stewardship projects, recreational outings and partnerships with schools and parishes. The CEC began in 2021 and had its true beginnings to the parent non-profit started in 2016, The Laudato Si Project. The CEC was the natural next step in response to Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

Another place stressing ecology and stewardship is found in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Holden Village, is a retreat center owned and managed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The community values environmental stewardship, and is committed to creating a just, sustainable and compassionate world and welcomes all people into the wilderness to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth, and each other.

There are many places like Holden Village and CEC that are working to save this world - one person at a time. God sent His Son to save us and Jesus did. This world is our home and we need commitment to saving it. Let us take the words Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* to heart and work

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.

together - all of us - all over the world.

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

The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things: “Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest.” (97)

We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. (208)

Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. (213)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1 Heavenly Father, help us to lift our eyes to the mountains and hills that encompass this planet. Help us realize what a true gift it is and that you are the Gift Giver. Give us the eyes to see the reality of your saving grace and love. Amen.

Option 2 Blessed Jesus, You came to save your children but we didn't realize it at the time. Open our eyes and hearts to see all of your children. Through your love and sacrifice we are one people. Dear Lord, make us one. Help us to save your creation. Amen.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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