Integral Faith

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

Catholic Climate Covenant
Together for our Common Home

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Nativity of the Lord, Cycle B (December 25, 2026)

Homily Helps

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

Isaiah 52: All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Hebrews 1: (God) has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.

John 1: All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race.

† **Comments for the Day:**

That which is not assumed is not healed. This is what St. Gregory of Nazianzus, a 4th-century archbishop, said about the Incarnation, why God became flesh and took the form of a helpless baby in the manger, and why the Creator of the universe joined creation.

In other words, to bring us all into one for all eternity, God fully embraced all creation in the Incarnation. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. Let us reflect on three essential realities of the Incarnation.

1. God embraces all creation

God draws infinitely near to us and our lives–our whole lives–our suffering, our joy, our hopes, and our disappointments. God fully enters into the brokenness of all creation and draws infinitely close to us. In order to heal all of creation, in Jesus, God has fully embraced all of creation. We do not simply look *up there* for God; God has set up God's tent in the messiness of our lives. God draws infinitely close to us because God loves us infinitely.

2. God embraces us fully and gives us Himself as a gift.

We often ask God to give us things, but God gives us Himself instead. We experience this self-gift of God in the Incarnation, the Eucharist, and in our daily lives.

3. God draws all creation into communion with Himself.

Pope Benedict XIV wrote: *"That same Word, who has always existed with God, who is God himself and through whom and for whom all things were created (cf. Col 1:16-17), became man: the eternal and infinite God immersed himself in human finiteness, in his creature, to bring back man and the whole of creation to himself."*

This Christmas, let us pray to experience God's proximity, closeness, and infinite love in a new way. Let us also ask to receive Jesus into our lives again and be drawn into communion with God and all creation.

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

Jesus lived in full harmony with creation, and others were amazed: "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (*Mt* 8:27). His appearance was not that of an ascetic set apart from the world, nor of an enemy to the pleasant things of life.....It is striking that most of his life was dedicated to this task in a simple life which awakened no admiration at all. (98)

From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy. (99)

The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship. (100)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the peace that Christ offers will be a reality for all peoples. let us pray to the Lord …

Option 2: That we may be filled with a spirit of gratitude for the gift of God-With-Us, and be granted courage to share that gift with those around us, let us pray to the Lord …

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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