

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the The Epiphany of the Lord, Cycle B (3 January 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 60: [Y]ou shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of the nations shall be brought to you...

Psalms 72: [The king] shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

Ephesians 3: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely that ... the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 2: [Magi from the east] prostrated themselves before [the child] and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

† Comment for the day:

If this past Christmas marks the end of a dark year, Epiphany starts 2021 with light. Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, writes of "Dark Clouds over A Closed World." He names the darkness: COVID-19, damaged economies, social distancing, climate catastrophes, political divisions, lost homes and evictions, deaths. Nonetheless, he invites us "to dialogue among all people of good will," reminding us that all human beings are brothers and sisters, siblings in Christ. The Magi from afar travelled in darkness, but they saw the promise of light and acted with hope.

Epiphany calls us to keep our eyes on the light of Christ and to move confidently out of the darkness of 2020 into this new year. Jesus is our guiding star. God calls us to be the Magi of 2021. We have to keep our heads up, our eyes on the Light, trusting, staying on the Gospel roadmap as we keep going. Joseph and Mary also had to hit the road to save the baby and humankind's light. Now, we have to save Mother Earth.

As we travel it's important that we keep our eye on our common home, earth. Our planet is the great work of our Creator entrusted to our care. When and where we see darkness, we can also look for the light and act to make our times brighter and our lives better. Jesus the Christ is the Light of the Universe, our real star in every situation, even pandemics.

In dark and virus-ridden environments, little things like wearing a mask, washing our hands, keeping our distance, and reducing the things we do that pollute our environment and warm our planet bring light. The promise of Epiphany is that God dwells among us as Christ our Light. If we keep our eyes

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.

on Him and act to heal our world as He did, we too shall “be radiant at what we see, our hearts will throb,” our closed world will open up, and 2021 will be “merry and bright.”

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

The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to “till and keep” the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15). “Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means caring, protecting, overseeing and protecting. (#67)

When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi... (#87)

Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged. (#93)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That, being responsible for earth, our common home, we will collaborate with wise persons, including strangers from afar, following with them the light that dispels darkness, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That, like the Magi, we might be willing to leave aside our comfortable ways and work together to resolve the dark challenges we continue to face in this new year, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com

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

Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.