

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (March 5, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Genesis 12: All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.

Psalms 33: Of the kindness the Lord the earth is full.

2 Timothy 1: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

Matthew 17: "Rise, and do not be afraid... Do not tell anyone of the vision until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

† Comments for the Day:

Today's scriptures emphasize the necessity of suffering for the reign of God as well as looking forward in hope. God calls Abram to do something very hard: leave everything he has known, and set foot into an unknown future. This act of faith results in God's promise that Abram and Sarai will be a blessing for countless generations.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul encourages him to be strong in doing the work that God gave him. He enjoins him to bear the suffering necessary to continue that work for the sake of the gospel.

Jesus gives Peter, James, and John a vision of the glory that awaits him after he suffers crucifixion and rises from the dead. His glory is that of the Son of God, who sacrificed himself for the good of the world. This is not the glory of fame and power: it is the light of love for all humanity and God's creation shining in his face.

As Christians, we are called to be a blessing to others and to the earth by working to restore our planet and to relieve the suffering of those whose lives are blighted by climate change. This is a work of love. It isn't easy, but it can lead to blessings for "our common home" for generations to come.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

Although "the wickedness of humanity was great on the earth" (*Gen 6:5*) and the Lord "was sorry that he had made man on the earth" (*Gen 6:6*), nonetheless, through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope! (71)

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.

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start . . . No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. (205)

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)

Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity . . . social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society. (231)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may show concern for the earth, and those suffering from its degradation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we restore hope for the healing of earth, our common home, and inspire that hope in others, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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