

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Resources and Petitions for the Second Sunday of Lent Cycle C (March 17, 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Genesis 15: God took Abram outside and said "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.... I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land as a possession.... Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ... Birds of prey swooped down ... As the sun was about to set ... and it was dark.... "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

Psalms 27: I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.

Philippians 3: Their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame.... Your citizenship is in heaven.... The Lord Jesus Christ will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Luke 9: Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray.... While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

People no longer seem to believe in a happy future; they no longer have blind trust in a better tomorrow based on the present state of the world and our technical abilities. There is a growing awareness that scientific and technological progress cannot be equated with the progress of humanity and history, a growing sense that the way to a better future lies elsewhere. (#113)

The time has come to pay renewed attention to reality and the limits it imposes; this in turn is the condition for a more sound and fruitful development of individuals and society. ...Our 'dominion' over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship. (#116)

Once the human being declares independence from reality and behaves with absolute dominion, the very foundations of our life begin to crumble, for "instead of carrying out his role as a cooperator with God in the work of creation, man sets himself up in place of God and thus ends up provoking a rebellion on the part of nature. (#117)

A correct relationship with the created world demands that we not weaken this social dimension of openness to others, much less the transcendent dimension of our openness to the 'Thou' of God. Our

relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. (#119)

† **Comment for the day:**

As we journey through Lent, our readings today point us to the promise God holds out for us. We hear of the Covenant God made with Abraham. We glimpse Jesus wrapped in the glory of God that will only be fully revealed at the Resurrection.

If we but stop for a moment to notice, indeed we are already surrounded by myriad signs that point to the glory of God. Let us contemplate the heavens, the creatures of our planet, the bounty of the earth, and our own bodies, by which we have life. All these things help us know both the limits of our existence and the awesome power of the Creator. Creation manifests the covenant between God and ourselves, and for our part we must care for God's creation. Just as Jesus led Peter, John, and James aside to pray on the mountain, let us allow Jesus to take us aside and ponder how God is already at work in our lives and our world. Let us allow God's promise to powerfully transform us.

At the same time, as Pope Francis points out, our personal relationship with the world and with God demands that we also foster an openness to the social dimension of our life of faith in the world. Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful:**

Option 1: That during our Lenten journey we might come to realize that our citizenship in heaven carries with it responsibilities here on earth for all our sisters and brothers and for all of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord, ...

Option 2: That like Abraham we might come to recognize that God's gifts of creation are meant for the good all, let us pray to the Lord, ...

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