

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C (May 8, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 5: Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. ... Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God. On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

Psalms 100: Know that the LORD is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends. ... his kindness endures forever.

Revelation 7: For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water.

John 10: My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.

† Comments for the Day:

Water, "life-giving water," is something worth pondering today. We know that water is essential to life. Our bodies need it and so do our souls. Water gives us life, physically and spiritually. Water flows all around the world and eventually into us, bringing us life. Flowing water is essential to us who believe in God. Flowing water is a great image for opening our minds and hearts to God's ever-flowing love.

Our relationship with God, our becoming children of God, starts with the flow of holy water that helps us know we are loved by God: the water of our mother when we are formed in our mother's womb and the water of our baptism when we become members of Christ's body. Just as the Spirit flowed out from Paul and Barnabas, it also flows from our inner selves and then out to others.

Today's scriptures give us an opportunity to see that water is holy. It's Easter water! It's at the church door where we dip our hand to bless ourselves with the sign of the cross, and in our baptismal font where it's sprinkled upon us. It's a way that God touches us and flows into us. "Water poured over the body of a child in baptism is a sign of new life." St. Francis praised God for providing us with "Sister Water," reminding us to "be useful and humble and precious and chaste."

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.

Our religious appreciation of Easter and baptismal water during this Easter time calls on us to care for the God-given water of our earth. We need to keep the waters of our planet, on which our lives depend, useful and humble and precious and chaste. In too many ways we are not taking good enough care of water. We waste much of it, taking it for granted and not thinking about it until it becomes polluted and goes bad, especially in areas where our poorer sisters and brothers live. It is also becoming warmer and acidic from climate change, leading to loss of sea life on which the entire food chain depends.

Easter time is to praise God for the gift of creation and a time to make sure we are taking good care of our common home in many different ways. Today let's focus especially on water, Easter water, God's holy water, God's love.

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

Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. ... Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity. (28)

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. (87)

We know that water is a scarce and indispensable resource and a fundamental right which conditions the exercise of other human rights. This indisputable fact overrides any other assessment of environmental impact. (185)

The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. ... Water poured over the body of a child in Baptism is a sign of new life. (235)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we will be grateful to our Creator for the abundance of water on our planet, and that we will care for our lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we will accept Pope Francis' call to care for our common home, especially the water, soil, air, and climate, and keep our environment healthy for our whole human family, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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