

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant<sup>sm</sup>  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C (March 27, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Joshua 5:** Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you.

**Psalms 34:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:** God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them.

**Luke 15:** But now we must celebrate and rejoice because your brother was dead and come back to life again; he was lost and has been found.

#### † Comments for the Day:

The theme that runs through today's readings is losing and finding, or repentance and restoration. The Israelites were lost in the desert and rebelled against God, yet God did not forsake them and continued to feed them in the desert. Just as God led them through the Red Sea, God dried up the waters of the Jordan so they could walk into the Promised Land. They no longer needed manna, and ate the crops the Canaanites had planted. They embarked on a new era in their history, freed from the reproach of slavery in Egypt.

In his letter, Paul assures the church at Corinth that if we are part of the body of Christ we are recreated. Our wrongdoing has been forgiven and our vision has been widened, so that we can see as the world as God sees it and share that vision with others.

The much-beloved parable of the prodigal son is the climax of three stories in Luke that illustrate God's loving search for those who have strayed, and God's joy when they're found. Some commentators think that it should be called "The Parable of the Loving Father." Each of the sons is a sinner in his own way: the younger is addicted to pleasure and demands his inheritance early, while the older son is judgmental and bitter. The younger son "came to his senses," and realized that he could repent; he is received in a way that exceeds his expectations. The older son is still stuck in bitterness and envy, but is not rejected by the father who treats him with gentleness and understanding.

Likewise, God the father loves and forgives us, and is always there to encourage us, even when our eyes are opened to what we are doing to His creation. Lent is a good time to repent for the times we have strayed and to rejoice in God's forgiveness. Our culture, with its emphasis on consumerism, image, quick fixes, and personal comfort makes it difficult to live what Pope Francis called "a sober, simple and humble lifestyle" and that the environment needs

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.

“sustainable development and the contribution religion can make.” (Address to the International Meeting of the Focolare Movement, Oct. 23, 2020) God's grace is there to help us do our part in making Francis' vision a reality.

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

Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. . . . When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. (203, 204)

Yet not all is 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. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (205)

An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge. (209)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we never forget God's love and forgiveness no matter what we have done to His creation, let us pray to the Lord ...

**Option 2:** That we receive the grace to open our minds and hearts to the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most from climate change, let us pray to the Lord ...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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