

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A (March 26, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Ezekiel 37: I will put my spirit in you that you may live.

Psalms 130: For with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption.

Romans 8: Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

John 11: He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

† Comments for the Day:

As Easter draws near, today's readings offer a meditation on courage, sacrifice, sorrow, love, and life. As John portrayed Jesus' healing of our physical and spiritual blindness, he also shows Jesus' restoring spiritual health and life to all of humanity.

Jesus' courage in coming to Judea, where he was in danger from the religious authorities, prefigures his ultimate sacrifice on the cross a few days later. He weeps for Lazarus because he loves him, just as he loves all of us. The Spirit of God is with him. And where God is, there is life.

Jesus leads us and all of creation to fullness of life. Just as he calls Lazarus out of death, he calls us out of the spiritual death of our culture: a culture that prizes affluence and the consumerism that is killing our planet and its people. This is especially true of the poor, vulnerable, and indigenous who are most impacted by environmental degradation like climate change.

May we recognize the Spirit in ourselves, and answer God's call to help renew His creation.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. In practice, we continue to tolerate that some consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights. (90)

The creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them toward fullness as their end. The

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very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence. (100)

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)

Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: "I will make all things new" (*Rev* 21:5). Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all. (243)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may become more aware of the mystery of Christ in all creation, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we may look to Jesus to inspire us to lead our lives with courage and love, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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