

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 7th Sunday of Easter, Cycle A (May 21, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 1: After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem ... they went to the upper room where they were staying ... [They] devoted themselves with one accord to prayer.

Psalm 27: I believe I will see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

1 Peter 4: Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.

John 17: Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. ... I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you."

† Comments for the Day:

Whenever somebody close to us disappears, we are deeply upset. We feel empty, bereft, in a vacuum. They loved us and we loved them. We enjoyed their close presence, and it isn't there anymore. After Jesus ascended and disappeared, his closest companions felt and acted that same way. They went back to their hideout together and locked the door. Do we not do the same?

In his first letter, St. Peter tells us that we all have to suffer together as our ancestors did. But he also assures us that eventually we will find ourselves in glory with Jesus. We all need time to absorb the meaning of this: *I will no longer be in the world*. But then we often forget the other thing Jesus told his disciples: *I am with you always until the end of the world*.

Among other ways we can be attentive and conscious of Jesus presence throughout our life is to keep sharp our sense of the divine presence in *all* living things – every other person, every living creature, our planet, and even the entire cosmos. We too often take that for granted. Too often we totally neglect Jesus because we are pouring out attention to *our own presence* and *our own importance*.

The days we ramp up to Pentecost in this final week of Easter time are important. They are not meant to be just a few sad days before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Rather, they are a process intended to prepare us to be "set on fire" once again.

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.

We are never alone. God is always present in the whole of creation, all over the earth, and throughout the universe that keeps astounding us. We are to see ourselves as the Easter candle through the coming year and throughout our lives. And we must make sure that this candle remains strong, that the flame will not die out. We can do this by helping others to know and experience our creator's steady loving presence, particularly through his astounding creation.

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

The creation accounts in the book of Genesis ... suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin. (66)

Yet God, who wishes to work with us and counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done. "The Holy Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable". (80)

All of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion that fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. (89)

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. (233)

The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. (240)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may extend the Divine Presence to all our sisters and brothers, and to work with them to care for our earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we may reach out to the poor and most vulnerable, especially those impacted by climate change, and extend to them God's mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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