

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the The Ascension of the Lord, Cycle C (May 29, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 1: "You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. ... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you ... While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?"

Psalms 47: For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations.

Ephesians 1: The Father of glory ... put all things beneath [Christ's] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Luke 24: Jesus said to his disciples: "... stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ... They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

† Comments for the Day:

On this Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we commemorate the event during which Jesus brought to a close the beginning of his great personal work of salvation among us and in us. He returned to the Father with some sense of success, humbly however. For Jesus knew that his work had to continue "not only in this age but also in the one to come." He knew that the Father put all things under his feet – the ones that walked the earth – making Jesus "king over all the earth," and also the head of his earthly body, the church.

Understandably, the disciples did not comprehend this charge at first. They got caught up in wonder, looking to the heavens, trying to take it all in, lost in "Wow! What happened?" Then God's messengers jolted them: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?" The messengers in white told the disciples to get their feet back on the ground and go back to their city. There they were to pray and praise God, until it dawned on them that they had to carry Jesus' work forward.

Now, we are that body of Christ on earth. His work was not complete, so Jesus commissioned his disciples – us – to be witnesses to all we have seen and heard, even to the ends of the earth. The Father entrusted God's people and all creation to Jesus, and Jesus has entrusted that charge to us. We are called to keep our focus on the needs of all creation, starting with people, the children of

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God, and of earth – our common home. As Pope Francis put it in *Laudato Si'*, we have been given the power and light of grace, as Jesus and the Holy Spirit invite us to embrace the world in a way that will bring a renewal of humanity, planet earth, even the universe.

Christ's work is still unfolding. He guides us but we, as members of Christ's church, are responsible for carrying the water and caring for all of creation.

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

The rich heritage of Christian spirituality, the fruit of twenty centuries of personal and communal experience, has a precious contribution to make to the renewal of humanity. (216)

May the power and the light of the grace we have received also be evident in our relationship to other creatures and to the world around us. (221)

Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colors are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise. The hand that blesses is an instrument of God's love and a reflection of the closeness of Jesus Christ, who came to accompany us on the journey of life. (235)

The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, "creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself". Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. (236)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the love with which the Father loved Jesus will be in each of us, so our lives and actions will let God's love flourish in our world today, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our decisions will reflect our awareness that we are united with all of creation, and that we are also its caretakers, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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