

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 Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle A (June 11, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Deuteronomy 8: "Do not forget the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery... and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers."

1 Corinthians 10: The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

John 6: "Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me."

† Comments for the Day:

On this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we reflect on our union with Christ and with one another. Today's readings invite us to be aware of our utter dependence on God, who feeds us both physically and spiritually. Every time we receive Communion, we are reminded that the bread and wine we partake of are the body and blood of Christ.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis encourages us to see how closely we are connected to one another and to all of God's creation. How we live our lives, how we order our society, and how we structure our economies all have profound effects on our brothers and sisters, and indeed on all of creation. We must not fall into the trap of seeing a conflict between caring for creation and caring for people – what hurts creation hurts people, and vice versa. But the converse is also true: by caring more for the earth, we are also caring for our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, we walk in the footsteps of the Israelites in the desert who needed manna from heaven to be sustained on their journey to the promised land. We stand in the Jewish crowds as Jesus tells them that he is "the living bread that came down from heaven," and that the bread that he will give is his "flesh for the life world." The Eucharist is not only material but also spiritual food: through it we receive God's life within us. That inner spiritual life, that eucharistic life – united with and flowing from Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension – is the source of grace needed to care well for the earth and for others. This feast reminds us of the need to return continually to the fountain of grace offered to us so generously in the eucharistic life of the Church.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The accumulation of constant novelties exalts a superficiality which pulls us in one direction. It becomes difficult to pause and recover depth in life. (113)

Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity . . . social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a 'culture of care' which permeates all of society. (231)

The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. 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)

We tend to demean contemplative rest as something unproductive and unnecessary, but this is to do away with the very thing which is most important about work: its meaning. We are called to include in our work a dimension of receptivity and gratuity, which is quite different from mere inactivity.... Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest, centred on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor. (237)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: May we grow in gratitude for the ways in which God feeds us in body, mind, and spirit, particularly through the Eucharist, we pray to the Lord....

Option 2: May we open our ears and hearts to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, and to the need for feeding or caring for both, we pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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

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