

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 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Cycle C (April 17, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Acts 10: They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day.

1 Cor 5: Clear out the old yeast that you may become a fresh batch of dough.

John 20: Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb....For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Comments for the Day:

Easter faith is grounded in the idea of dying and rising. This theme, often characterized as "the birth pangs of the messiah," is found in both Old and New Testaments (*Jer 22:23* and *Matt 24:8*, respectively). This part of the theme points to the struggle and pain endured whenever new life is pushing forth to be born, or when some form of transformation is occurring. As is the case with actual labor pains, there is no assurance that the agony will result in a live birth. Likewise, when we undertake a venture or challenge, there is no guarantee of success.

All of today's readings underscore Jesus' indescribable metamorphosis from dying to rising. The passage from Acts traces his path from being hung on a tree to rising to new life. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul employs the mysterious action of yeast fermentation to demonstrate that decay often yields something new and fresh.

The gospel reading conveys that this is precisely what happened, though it does not explain how this wonder took place. Mary Magdalene and the disciples go to the tomb, the place of death and decay. Instead of death, however, they find traces of new life, resurrected life, life that has conquered death. They had no part in this transformation; they were simply witnesses to it, dumbfounded witnesses "who did not yet understand the Scripture."

While we too are recipients of this new life, we are also perpetrators of death, as suggested by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*. We are strangling earth of its life with our garbage; choking the atmosphere with our pollution, poisoning water with our plastic. "All creation is groaning in labor pains even until now." (Rom 8:22)

The outcome of such a situation is in our own hands. We can decide to change our ways of consuming, of wasting, of polluting. We can commit ourselves to the birth of new life for earth, rather than disfigurement and death. The Easter message is a promise of life, not merely for

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human beings, but for all of creation. God has entrusted us with the fulfillment of part of that promise. How open are we to being midwives of new life?

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

The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone....That is why the New Zealand bishops asked what the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" means when "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generations of what they need to survive." (95)

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

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. (205)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we have the insight to discover ways of bringing new life to our world, and the courage to follow those insights.

Option 2: That we open ourselves to the all-encompassing power of the resurrection that can transform us and our world.

Further Resources

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