

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the Feast of Corpus Christi, Cycle B (3 June 2018)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Exodus 24: Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do." Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you..."

Mark 14: "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many..."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

236. The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours... Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love: "Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. 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 divination, 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."

† Comment for the day:

Today's readings offer us a plethora of rich images and layers of meaning rooted in the historical experience of the people desperate to live with freedom and dignity. It is a challenge for a contemporary American to fully capture the meaning of an ancient covenant and understand spiritual undertones of what it meant back then to share in a banquet, or being sprinkled with a blood of an animal sacrificed in a holocaust. It was much easier for Jesus and his early disciples to relate to that. In fact, they not only understood it but they were also open to engage in that living tradition, to build up on it in light of new set of experiences, their own struggles and hopes. They were able to find in those ancient stories and images new, deeper levels of meanings. Faithfulness to that living tradition

requires us to resist the tendency towards a mummification of our Eucharistic tradition. Instead, we are called to explore those ancient stories and images, listen to how they may resonate with our individual and collective journeys and sojourns in the contemporary deserts of our lives. The action setting for today's first reading is the Sinai desert. The setting in the Gospel story is the city of Jerusalem where Jesus' Passion story would later unfold. A homilist may want to explore various possible, contemporary existential settings: contemporary deserts of hyper-consumerism with its accompanying, unquenched hunger for deeper meaning and communion with Earth's Community of Life; thirst for justice and human dignity on the part of millions of migrants and refugees displaced by climate change, etc.

Partaking in the New Covenant established by Christ and sharing in the Eucharistic banquet have profound spiritual, social, political, and even ecological implications. It is incumbent upon the priests and deacons who are preaching to make sure that the people of God, hungry for meaning and in need of spiritual nourishment, are able to receive in small, digestible portions those new insights. The need to do that is more acute now than ever. As our common home is being pillaged, laid waste and harmed with impunity, Eucharist – as Pope Francis reminds us in the quote below – can be a powerful force that can inspire and empower us to safeguard God's creation and protect it from the evil one determined to abort God's promise of life.

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our devotion to the Eucharist would manifest itself through our solidarity with the poor, the unborn, the immigrant, and the earth's community of life, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For the conversion of those who harm the poor, the vulnerable, and the earth. May they realize that what they do to the least of them, they do it to the Body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

Visit our webpage to sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.