

# 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 Palm Sunday of Lord's Passion, Cycle A (April 2, 2023)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Isaiah 50:** The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear.

**Philippians 2:** Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him.

**Matthew 26:** Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver.

#### † Comments for the Day:

The liturgical celebration of Palm Sunday recalls the diverse elements of creation employed to sing out God's praises: the ass and the colt, branches from the trees, and the voices of the crowd giving witness to the Creator who has left a mark on all creation.

Today, we are called through creation to tend toward God, who is present throughout the universe. We are invited to contemplate with wonder and to join in singing of God's grandeur and beauty in this web of interwoven relationships. This interconnected web, which Pope Francis emphasizes in *Laudato Si'*, allows us to discover a key to our own fulfillment.

As this Holy Week commences, we are reminded of Jesus' mission: That we might have life and have it more abundantly! We join the community of believers to recognize and proclaim the dignity bestowed upon us, created and redeemed to be the image and likeness of our loving God. Humans are not a commodity to be bought and sold – for thirty pieces of silver or any other amount – as though we were objects. We bear the gift of dignity granted to each and every human being created by God.

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

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. The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. (66)

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.

A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. ... Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society. (91)

The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. ... The Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or inviolable, and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property. Saint John Paul II forcefully reaffirmed this teaching, stating that "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, *without excluding or favoring anyone*". (93)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That God our loving Creator give to us a true appreciation of and respect for all living creatures as sacred bearers of God's love, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That our celebration of Holy Week inspires us to follow in Jesus' footsteps in promoting the dignity of all God's children, particularly those affected by climate change, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help>

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