

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 the Passion of the LORD, Cycle C (April 10, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Luke 19: Its owners said to them, “Why are you untying this colt?” They answered, “The Master has need of it.”

Phil 2: 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.

Luke 22: “This is my body, which will be given for you... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.”

Comments for the Day:

We usually think of human beings as the ones who shout out praise to God. However, other creatures, each in its own way, often make profound religious statements. There are examples of this in two of today’s readings. The passage describing Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem recalls the standard royal entrance procession of the day when people would gather around and cheer the arriving royalty. However, Jesus does not enter the city on a mighty warhorse, as did so many conquering heroes. He sat on a colt (some translate the Greek word as "donkey"). This animal was meek and unassuming, thus proclaiming the character of its rider. The symbolism is striking, and words of explanation are unnecessary.

Even more striking is the symbolism of the meal described in the gospel passage. This Passover meal was already a ceremony that "remembered," or made ritually present, the much earlier event of Israel’s deliverance by God. The meal probably consisted of bread, herbs, lamb, fruit, a vegetable, and wine – whatever Earth brought forth that year. This meal of deliverance with all the symbolism the food might have carried became the setting for Jesus’ own mystical action. Taking the bread and the wine, Jesus transformed it. The symbolism of binding oneself with others by sharing the same food becomes more than symbolism here. The bread and wine are transformed into Jesus himself. No longer merely symbols, they are now sacrament.

Climate change has dried up the fruit of the field and the fruit of the vine; it has left animals like the colt to starve in the woods. It cripples our bodies as it destroys our food; it defiles our spirits as it desecrates our religious symbols. There is no religious remembrance where earth is violated.

As stewards of God's creation and protectors of life, we are called to "care for our common home," as Pope Francis so eloquently asks of us in *Laudato Si'*. And this includes doing what we can to reduce our consumption of energy and resources that contributes to climate change.

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.

However, like Jesus on the colt, we may need to humble ourselves in order to fulfill our calling to care for creation.

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

Once we lose our humility...we inevitably end up harming society and the environment. It is not easy to promote this kind of healthy humility or happy sobriety when we...think that our subjective feelings can define what is right and what is wrong. (224)

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. (233)

It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Grace, which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man and gave himself as food for his creatures. (236)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we learn to respect and value every aspect of the natural world, for it manifests some dimension of the glory of the creator.

Option 2: That we take the necessary political steps to undo those practices that contribute to climate change so that the fruit of the field and the fruit of the vine might flourish.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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