



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Transfiguration of the Lord, Cycle A (August 6, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Daniel 7: The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion ...

Psalms 97: The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory.

2 Peter 1: He received honor and glory from God the Father ...

Matthew 17: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

† Comments for the Day:

Today we call to mind the many wonderful things with which we have been blessed. Attentive to God's goodness, we are humbled into realizing that we are incapable of earning or meriting those gifts. Rather, we are invited to share them as they have been shared with us.

Dominion and power stand out in today's scripture readings, but it is likely that we are hearing those words through a filter. On this date in 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima. Power and dominion, in the earthly sense, were demonstrated that day.

At the Transfiguration, God reveals that the dominion and power handed over to Jesus are to be exercised in a different manner: through humility and service. God's reign, inaugurated in word and deed by Jesus, is not imposed upon us but rather proposed to us, inviting our participation and collaboration. This is the divine mystery: God's power is exercised in a manner totally unlike human conceptions of – and pretensions to – power. We are tempted to put too much trust in ourselves, our strategies, and our technology. Today we are reminded that we are not God.

We are struck today by the humility of the son of God who emptied himself, choosing the path of poverty, which is not merely the absence of wealth but utter dependency. Scripture today once again calls us, as followers of Christ, to examine how we exercise the authority with which we have been entrusted. Are we willing to choose the path of humble service, relying entirely on divine providence?

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that dominion over creation truly involves caring for our common home, being responsible stewards rather than irresponsible "skewers" of God's plan for communion and harmony. This calls for the ongoing transfiguration of our own understanding and exercise of dominion and power.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume.... Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction. (204)

Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment.... If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. (208)

There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions... such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings... All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity. (211)

Self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today. Isolated individuals can lose their ability and freedom to escape the utilitarian mindset, and end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness. Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. (219)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That God may increase in us wisdom and humility to make life-giving and life-preserving choices for the benefit of all creation, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might have the wisdom and courage to allow God to transform our understanding and exercise of dominion and power in all of our relationships, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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