

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the The Feast of the Ascension Cycle A (24 May 2020)

### Homily Helps

#### † Comment for the day:

Five years ago, Pope Francis issued his landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which calls us to a profound ecological conversion, moving us toward greater care for creation and care for the poor. As we mark the fifth anniversary with Laudato Si' Week, we are in the midst of a global pandemic, which has reminded us in very painful ways of our vulnerability and our human interconnectedness. As much as we long to return to "normal," we must remember that our "normal" patterns of consumption before this pandemic have resulted in severe damage to God's creation and to so many of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. As we rebuilt our economies and our societies, let us take the opportunity to rebuild in ways that are more equitable and sustainable for both people and planet.

Today's Feast of the Ascension is a fitting reminder of our call to take up this sacred work. As Jesus took leave of his followers, he gave them instructions about the work they were to do – making disciples of all the nations, working to build his kingdom here on earth. He also assured them that they would be given the power necessary to do so, and that He would be with them in that mission. Laudato Si' Week is a time of both celebration and mission – celebrating the incredible gift of God's creation, and recommitting ourselves to the mission of caring for that creation. As Pope Francis reminds us, the Spirit, the infinite bond of love, is present in all parts of the universe. May we be moved by that Spirit of love to a true ecological conversion.

#### † Scripture passages to note:

Acts 1: [Y]ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

[W]hy are you standing there looking at the sky?

Ephesians 1: May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call...

Matthew 28: Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... And behold, I am with you always, until the end of time."

## Homily Helps (cont.)

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

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. (#218)

[S]ocial love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society. (#231)

The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. (#238)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** May all who are suffering during this pandemic – those who are ill, those who mourn, those who are unemployed or struggling – know the love and support of God, we pray to the Lord....

**Option 1:** In the spirit of Saint Francis, may we be models of care for our sisters and brothers, and for the world in which we live, we pray to the Lord....

## Further Resources

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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