

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time/Sunday of the Word of God, Cycle B (24 January 2021)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Jonah 3:** Jonah had gone but a single day's walk announcing "... Nineveh shall be destroyed", when the people of Nineveh ... proclaimed a fast and ... put on sackcloth.

**Psalm 25:** Teach me your ways, O Lord.

**1 Corinthians 7:** The time is running out. From now on, let ... those using the world as not using it fully... for the world in its present form is passing away.

**Mark 1:** The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent.... As Jesus passed by the Sea of Galilee, ... he said to the fishermen he saw, "I will make you fishers of people (men)".

#### † Comment for the day:

We live in an era like that of Jonah when people on our planet face life-threatening problems, not just in big cities like Nineveh or New York, but globally. Over the past 50, alarms have been sounding that something is going wrong with the environment in which we live – the air we breathe, the water we drink, the gases we smell, the plastics we use, and the trash we throw-away. God sent Jonah to Nineveh to warn the people that time was running out. They faced two options: change your ways or be destroyed by your current behaviors. The Ninevites got the message and acted on it.

The Jonah's of today are the scientists who monitor the well-being of our planet, God's creation. In the 1960's, Rachel Carson raised her voice in a book, *Silent Spring*. Today a huge choir of Jonah-like voices are telling us that "30 years more and the planet on which you live will be largely destroyed." It is important that we listen to those voices. Today's second proclamation from St. Paul tells us: "The time is running out. ... Let those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away." In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us that "The kingdom of God is at hand." He sees us like the fishermen in the lake and says to us, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of people." That means we have to take better care of what has been entrusted to us, the common home of all living creatures on the only planet in the whole universe that we know for sure sustains life.

Today's psalm pleads: "Teach me your ways, O Lord. ... Guide the humble to justice and teach the humble your way." May we count ourselves among the humble of humankind, the Ninevites of our day. May we one and all listen to the prophets of our time, repent, exploit the earth less fully, undertake a fast to reduce our consumptive habits and the waste we throw away. May we humbly put on sackcloth, simplify our lives, and repent of the destructive dimensions of our way of life, so our Nineveh will not be destroyed.

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.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

204. 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.

217. "The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast". For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. What all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

218. The Australian bishops spoke of the importance of such conversion for achieving reconciliation with creation: "We must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need ... a conversion, or change of heart".

220. This conversion calls for a number of attitudes ... full of tenderness, ... gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works. ... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. ... An ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems.... acceptable" (Rom 12:1).

158. In the present condition of global society, ... the principle of the common good immediately becomes ... a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. This option entails recognizing the implications of the universal destination of the world's goods.

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That the human community will come together to improve the way we are using the resources of the world so the life of all living creatures on our planet can flourish and give glory to God, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That we will listen to the Word of God and to the prophetic voice of scientists, so we will be open and ready to respond to Pope Francis' call to 'care for our Common Home,' let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

Feedback: [IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com](mailto:IntegralFaithForLife@gmail.com)

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

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