

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the First Sunday of Advent Cycle C (November 28, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Jeremiah 33: Do what is right and just in the land.... Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure.

Psalms 25: Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths.

Luke 21: Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world.... When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.... Be vigilant at all time and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations."

† Comments for the Day:

The readings for today begin with a note of promise and hope, but end with a warning. God tells Jeremiah that a king is coming to bring justice and right living to Israel. Jesus warns of a time of massive upheaval on the earth, followed by a marvelous time of salvation. His warning includes an instruction: If you want to see the reign of God to come, then you must read the signs of the time and not indulge in thoughtless, careless behavior. Advent inspires us to watch and work for the reign of God.

Like Jesus, Pope Francis is urging the people of the world to read the signs of the times, not in the sun, moon and stars, but on the earth, "our common home." He warns that our heedless behavior will result in great suffering. In our day, we are carousing with excessive consumerism that fills the ocean and landfills with needless trash, and with devastating the world's soil, water and air to support our rather compulsive lifestyles.

Pope Francis tells us that the lifestyles of rich countries are causing climate change, which leads poor and indigenous people to become climate migrants. Like St. Paul, the pope is saying, "strengthen your hearts" and act with compassion for your brothers and sisters whose lives are being devastated. He reminds us that care for the poorest and care for the earth are inseparable.

Jeremiah tells us that God will raise up a just shoot, Jesus, who teaches us through servants like Pope Francis to care for the neediest. Let us be His disciples and do what is right and just in our land. Indeed, as Jesus commands in Luke's gospel, let us "be vigilant."

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:

Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. Still, we can see signs that things are now reaching a breaking point, due to the rapid pace of change and degradation. (61)

When we speak of the “environment” what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live.... We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature. (139)

When [indigenous communities] remain on their land, they themselves care for it best. Nevertheless, in various parts of the world, pressure is being put on them to abandon their homelands to make room for agricultural or mining projects. (146)

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste, and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. (161)

There is a need for common and differentiated responsibilities. As the bishops of Bolivia have stated, "the countries which have benefited from a high degree of industrialization, at the cost of enormous emissions of greenhouse gases, have a greater responsibility for providing a solution to the problems they have caused." (170)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: As we begin this Advent season, may we join Pope Francis and embrace all people who are in need wherever they are in the world, especially those most impacted by climate change, let us pray to the Lord

Option 2: That the Holy Spirit will guide decision makers in all nations to address climate change for the good of the whole world, let us pray to the Lord

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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