

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (November 6, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

2 Maccabees 7: "It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him."

Psalms 17: My steps have been steadfast in your paths, my feet have not faltered.

2 Thessalonians 2: May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

Luke 20: "He is not God of the dead but of the living, for to him all are alive."

† Comments for the Day:

As we enter November in the northern hemisphere, we become conscious of the dying of the year, the death of life as we know it, and what lies beyond death. Discord in the U.S., the threat and reality of war in many places, the decline of civility in public discourse, and the climate crisis all threaten to tear the bonds that hold us together. We may even feel that our very culture and indeed our planet are headed toward death. Today's readings, however, offer faith and hope, courage in suffering, and trust in eternal life.

The Seleucid Greek King Antiochus IV forbade the Jews in his kingdom to observe God's law, and mandated that they take on Greek customs. But the Jewish Maccabees refused to comply. Seven of them and their mother were subjected to torture and died courageously rather than forsake their hope in God and in resurrection.

Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians assures them that God will strengthen them, guard them from evil, and encourage them as they wait in hope for the coming of Christ. In the gospel, the Sadducees try to trip-up Jesus by presenting him with a scenario in which the afterlife is exactly like this one. Jesus sidesteps the trap by quoting Moses, "God is not the God of the dead but of the living. All are alive for him."

Today, as Pope Francis points out in *Laudato Si'*, our world is suffering at the hands of humans – those actually entrusted with its stewardship. For those of us who lament environmental degradation like climate change, and those who experience it first-hand, it is understandably easy to become discouraged. Yet, as signs of the climate crisis multiply, we might turn to the words of Joanna Macy: "Our inseparability – from each other and from the fragile, miraculous web of life – is the ground of both our faith and our power to act."

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:

Although “the wickedness of man was great on the earth” (Gen 6:5) ... nonetheless, through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope. The biblical tradition clearly shows that this renewal entails recovering and respecting the rhythms inscribed in nature by the hand of the Creator. (71)

There is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. (165)

May our struggles and concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone . . . his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!* (244, 245)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our faith lead us to bond with each other, in the hope of nurturing the planet, our common home, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That our faith strengthens us to engage in action to protect the earth, God's creation, even in the face of indifference, doubt, and criticism, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

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

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