

**Homily Helps and Petitions for the  
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (February 13, 2022)**

**Homily Helps**

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

**Jeremiah 17:7:** Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream...

**Psalms 1:3:** He is like a tree planted near running water; that yields its fruit in due season.

**1 Corinthians 15:19:** If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.

**Luke 6:17, 20:** Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples...And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said, "Blessed are you..."

† **Comments for the Day:**

A number of years ago, I needed to travel to Australia for my work. While there, I visited a Franciscan house of prayer, and was struck at the aridity of the area. As I prepared to leave, one of the friars took out a box of pictures, and I looked through them with little enthusiasm. Then I came upon two photos of the area, both taken from the same vantage point but in different seasons: the rainy season and the dry season. The difference was remarkable: the rain had transformed the landscape, bringing forth green and many-colored flowers.

I presume that the passages from Jeremiah and the Psalms are based on similar experiences. The presence of God in our lives brings forth life, color and vibrancy! These passages also note the sharp contrast between the trusting and the wicked, the cursed and the blessed. If we live long enough, however, we come to understand that we carry that contrast within ourselves. It is important to understand that this struggle is part of being human, and that we need God's grace to be able to choose life and to forgive ourselves when we fail. Saint Paul tells us that we must look beyond the present to the life to come, when God will bring justice and healing to the world. In the gospel, Luke presents the charter of life for the followers of Jesus.

If we think a bit about our "normal" approach to the Christian life, much of our reflection revolves around the Ten Commandments as, for example, in our typical preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation. The Commandments basically speak about what we should or should not do. The Beatitudes, on the other hand, present a way of life modeled on that of Jesus, where love reigns supreme. In this, we are called to be there for our sisters and brothers, and in fact all of God's good creation.

Many passages in *Laudato Si'* highlight our ability to take an honest look at ourselves, and embark on new paths to authentic freedom. God offers us light and strength to carry out this task. It is often difficult to continue, due to the pressures of our consumer society and our peers. But we are called to see beyond the present and the short-term fixes offered by corporate and political leaders that, more often than not, lead to environmental disasters that impact life on our common home.

Our happiness does not lie in possessions and might. Understanding this, we can work for the justice and healing of the reign of God.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

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)

All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start . . . No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace deep in our hearts. (#205)

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!* (#245)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we meditate on the Beatitudes and learn to model our lives on that of Jesus, we pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That we drink deeply of the life-sustaining waters of our loving God, which give us the ability to look beyond our own immediate concerns to the needs of all people and living beings, and of our common home, we pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources?tid=14>

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