

Integral Faith

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



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

Homily Resources and Petitions for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle C (17 February 2019)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Jeremiah 17:7: Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord.

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..."

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

Yet 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, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. 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. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us. (#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, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!* (#245)

† Comment for the day:

Today's readings from Jeremiah, Psalm 1 and Luke's gospel draw a 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 that we understand that this struggle is a part of being human and that we need God's grace to be able to choose life and to forgive ourselves when we fail.

Jeremiah and the psalmist give us an image of a tree that flourishes because it is connected to life-giving water. Like the tree we are enlivened and able to live in hope by the ever-flowing water of grace coming to us through other people, communities and the earth that sustains all life. St. 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.

Luke's audience is his disciples. He is opening them to a revolution in the understanding of God's ways. He expects the disciples to look beyond the miracles that draw the crowds. He wants them to understand that neither blessing nor woe is a sign of God's approval. The fruits of a good life are not always social approval or wealth because these things tend to make us oblivious to many of the realities of life, realities that social outcasts and the poor know only too well. The fruits of a good life are trust in God and care for others.

At times it's hard to hold onto this because we are overwhelmed by the siren song of the consumer society. Its relentless social media, TV, radio and print messages along with peer and community pressure seem too much to resist. We feel we must have the right clothes, car, home, or vacation in order to belong and be approved of and are oblivious to the toll that consumerism takes on the earth. At other times we can see beyond the present and the short-term fixes offered by corporate and political leaders that will result in future environmental disaster for life on our common home. Our happiness will not lie in possessions and our security will not come from military might. When we understand this we can work for the justice and healing of the Reign of God. At times we will fail, but there is always the flowing water of God's grace to refresh us.

† **Related Prayers of the Faithful**

Option 1: That we have the grace to see the potential for good in ourselves and in others, we pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we are able to look beyond our own immediate concerns to the needs of our common home, its peoples and all living beings, we pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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