

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 1st Sunday of Advent, Cycle A (1 December 2019)

Homily Helps

† **Comment for the day:**

The readings from Isaiah and Psalm 122 this first Sunday of Advent focus on the vision of the Messianic age of justice and peace, and age ardently awaited by the people of Israel. Similarly, in the Gospel Jesus speaks of the new age he is about to usher in, and Paul expects the return of Christ at any moment.

The intense expectation of the Gospel of the Gospel leads us to examine our own lives. Have we grown dull? Each day, God extends invitations to deepen our Christian life. Do the concerns and duties of everyday life blot them out? Perhaps we need to spend some as we prepare for Christmas to beat those swords and spears in our lives into plowshares and pruning hooks. Perhaps we need to be more alert so as to notice the many ways that God comes into our lives right now.

Pope Francis asks us to become more aware of what is happening to our Earth, as well as to the ever-increasing toll it is taking on humanity. He pleads for a new ecological era. What can we ourselves do to realize Isaiah's vision of peace? How do we prepare for the new era proclaimed by Jesus? As we ask ourselves these questions, let us prepare for a more meaningful celebration of God coming into our world at Christmas.

† **Scripture passages to note:**

Isaiah 2: Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

Psalm 22: May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

Romans 13: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

Matthew 24: They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man....[I]f the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake.

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

Accordingly, our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is. (#9)

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.

Homily Helps (cont.)

† Passages from Laudato Si' to note (cont.):

It is foreseeable that once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. (#57)

At the same time we can note the rise of a false or superficial ecology which bolsters complacency and a cheerful recklessness. As often occurs in periods of deep crisis which requires bold decisions, we are tempted to think that what is happening is not entirely clear. (#59)

The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge (#80)

The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet a universal awareness needed to achieve this...Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." (#207)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That this Advent season be a time of noticing God's presence and grace in ourselves, in the people around us, and in our world, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: That we might share Isaiah's vision of a new age of peace, reverence for all life, justice and joy, let us pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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