

# Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (September 18, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Amos 8:** Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!

**Psalm 113:** The Lord raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with princes, with the princes of his own people.

**1 Timothy 2:** Ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life.

**Luke 16:** The children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ... The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. You cannot serve both God and mammon.

#### † Comments for the Day:

The prophet Amos spoke at a time when the northern kingdom of Israel was economically very successful under the veneer of prosperity and religious observance. Yet, the poor and vulnerable were being crushed to the ground. This travesty of justice was not just a social issue of the day; for Amos, it was an insult to God. Such developments in our world today, such as economic development at the cost of environmental degradation, continue to insult God our creator.

Psalm 113 beautifully weaves together praise of God as glorious creator and overseer of heaven and earth, while also lifting up the poor and oppressed. Our liturgies and ministries are meant to continue these ways of experiencing the beauty of earth and our responsibility for taking care of it. Earth, our common home, has been entrusted to us individually and as a community.

St. Paul tells us that we are called to pray for all in authority who are responsible for peace and the common good. The exercise of power and authority is a serious and holy responsibility, not one to be taken lightly. Would Paul condone the coarsening of our political discourse today? How would he view the apathy, superficiality, and hypocrisy of many legal and corporate leaders? If Paul had civic power, would he neglect valuing the common good and taking today's climate crisis seriously? Rather, he would insist that we *all* take it seriously.

When teaching his disciples about the kingdom of God, Jesus considered what was going on around him. He used examples from nature and the daily experiences of ordinary people. In the parable, Jesus *praises* the resourcefulness and determination of morally questionable people who devised ways to make things better for others as a way to escape punishment. If they were able to

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respond to those in need, how much more should we, dedicated disciples of Jesus, defend human life and dignity by defending our environment that sustains life?

This year's Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4) provides an opportunity for us to bring "good news to the poor and liberty to captives." As stewards of creation in these times of climate crisis, how can we promote both charity and justice? The steward in the parable found it easy to be generous because the goods he managed belonged to his master. Might that be true about each of us? Is not everything we possess a gift that belongs to God? The parable challenges us to realize our own well-to-do status and possessiveness. Today, large corporations put the squeeze on local farmers and developers drive residents out of their own neighborhoods. Are we ourselves sensitive to the plight of people who cannot afford housing, food, education, insurance, a clean environment, and the other necessities of life? Are we helping improve the environment in which, like God Himself, we all "live and move and have our being"?

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

Regarding climate change, there are *differentiated responsibilities*. As the U.S. bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests." (52)

We fail to see that some are mired in desperate and degrading poverty, with no way out, while others have not the faintest idea of what to do with their possessions, vainly showing off their supposed superiority and leaving behind them so much waste which, if it were the case everywhere, would destroy the planet. In practice, we continue to tolerate that some consider themselves more human than others, as if they had been born with greater rights. (90)

Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. These settings influence the way we think, feel and act. In our rooms, our homes, our workplaces and neighborhoods, we use our environment as a way of expressing our identity. (147)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That our charity and commitment to justice reflect our devotion to God by serving the poor, especially those impacted by environmental degradation, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That all persons serving as elected or appointed officials with authority will act with integrity to ensure the common good that includes earth and its climate, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

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

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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