

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle A (December 4, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 11: There shall be no harm or ruin on my holy mountain.

Psalms 72: Justice shall flourish in its time, and fullness of peace forever.

Romans 15: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another.

Matthew 3: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

† Comments for the Day:

The Quaker minister and artist Edward Hicks painted more than 60 versions of his well-known depiction entitled "The Peaceable Kingdom." If he thought that he never quite got it right, he would not be far from the truth many of us have come to realize: that we have not yet succeeded in bringing forth the peaceable kingdom envisioned in today's reading from Isaiah.

That vision illustrates predators and victims in both the animal and human realms living together in peace: the leopard and the young goat, the lion and the calf, the poisonous snake and the child. Interconnected while retaining their specific individualities, these creatures constitute the kingdom or reign of God.

The theme of peace continues in today's Responsorial Psalm. Justice flowers because all creation is in balance. Everything is allowed to survive and to thrive in its own way. The poor, the afflicted, the lowly, and indeed all creation are rescued. Profound peace is thus established and maintained.

Although in his letter to the Romans Paul speaks of harmony among all the members of the church, the scope of such a horizon must be opened today to include all creation in that vision of harmony. There can be no societal harmony if the forces of life on earth are not in harmony. This balance will only endure if the interconnectedness of earth's elements is respected and sustained on all levels.

Historically, the reign of God was considered only a socio-religious reality. Today, we realize that everything that is human is part of cosmic reality. "One accord" and "one voice" includes all the natural forces of the cosmos, that is, God's creation. And all creation glorifies God with one voice and with one accord.

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:

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the word “creation” has a broader meaning than “nature”, for it has to do with God’s loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all. (76)

All creatures are moving forward with us and through us toward a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. (83)

When we speak of “environment”, what we really mean is the relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. (139)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may come to realize that all of nature is interconnected within the universe, that is God's creation, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That, realizing our interconnectedness with all of creation, we will respect the unique life forces of every creature, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

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