

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle C (December 5, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Baruch 5: Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God for ever. ... For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, and his mercy and justice for company.

Psalms 126: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Philippians 1: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Luke 3: Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding road shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

† Comments for the Day:

There is hope! Today's scripture readings are filled with words of encouragement and hope. The prophet Baruch urges Jerusalem to end its period of mourning and allow the hurt and pain of humiliation to heal. Paul expresses great pride in a community of Philippians, showing enthusiasm for the faith that they have recently professed. Luke presents John the Baptist emerging as a prophet of promise in the midst of Roman rulers who represent the oppressive structure of Palestine.

Even though we seem to be drowning in political, religious, and environmental upheaval, the words of scripture today call us to rise above our despair and to cling to the promise of hope. We are to shed the mantle of misery and clothe ourselves in garments of light. But words alone cannot change things; only those who heed the words and who take them seriously can effect any kind of transformation.

British born anthropologist and writer Jane Goodall is a listener and messenger of hope today. She assures her readers that there are four reasons why we will be able to save our environment and ourselves from cataclysmic horror: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the indomitable human spirit. Swedish teen environmental activist Greta Thunberg has traveled the globe with her passionate plea directed at world leaders to take

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the critical steps necessary to effect global healing. Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, also known as the “Green Patriarch,” has preached to academics and religious leaders calling them to move beyond intellectualism when it comes to environment and to seek real change. Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, sees success in solving problems like climate change only if we take swift action and work together as one world.

These are today's voices of Baruch, Paul, and John the Baptist. We too must be the voices, but also the minds and the hands, so that our world and its people – all its people – will be transformed and led by God in the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company!

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

God, who wishes to work with us and who counts on our cooperation, can also bring good out of the evil we have done. ... The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge. (80)

We come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for “if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must inquire who gave it this beginning, and who is its Creator?” Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concerns for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (244)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we listen attentively to the voices of today's prophets who call us to be good stewards and healers of our planet and its peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That world governments work together in the spirit of the United Nations to develop a peaceful plan for the healing of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

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

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