

# Integral Faith

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



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (October 23, 2022)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Sirach 35:** The LORD is a God of justice, who knows no favorites.... The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds, judges justly and affirms the right.

**Psalms 34:** The Lord hears the cry of the poor.... When the just cry out, the LORD hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them.

**2 Timothy 4:** I have completed well, I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.... But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

**Luke 18:** Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else .... "The tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

#### † Comments for the Day:

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks of a proud Pharisee and a penitent tax collector. The Pharisee believes himself to be righteous and holy. He holds all others, like the tax collector, in contempt. Insofar as he gives no thought to solidarity with others, it is clear that he is convinced of his own self-sufficiency. The Pharisee is living in his own world.

In comparison, the tax collector recognizes that he is a sinner in need of the mercy of God. Such an attitude will enrich his relationships, producing compassion for others who share his situation of neediness before God. Jesus highlights the fact that the tax collector will go home justified: those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Ben Sirach and Saint Paul agree. Sirach assures us that the prayer of the humble will pierce the clouds and find its way to God. God responds and does justice for those who act rightly, rescuing them from their troubles. Paul testifies that, indeed, God has stood by him and given him the strength to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis stresses in the virtues and attitudes necessary to promote the dignity of every human being, to address crises like climate change, and to care for

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earth, our common home. He also calls our attention to the interdependence that marks our world. Because of this interdependence, the actions of the few can affect all, including consuming resources and burning fossil fuels that cause climate change.

In the face of this tragedy, let us speak to one another. Let us enter into dialogue about our current situation, seeking solutions that will benefit all, not just certain countries or classes of people. The global common good demands that we foster a spirit of solidarity: working to eliminate extreme poverty, promoting the social development of all, and seeking ways to heal the earth. Pope Francis invites all citizens to take control of politics at all levels; only in this way will we be able to confront our social and environmental problems.

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

An interdependent world not only makes us more conscious of the negative effects of certain lifestyles and models of production and consumption which affect us all; more importantly, it motivates us to ensure that solutions are proposed from a global perspective, and not simply to defend the interests of a few countries. (164)

[T]hese are primarily ethical decisions, rooted in solidarity between all peoples. (172)

Because the enforcement of laws is at times inadequate due to corruption, public pressure has to be exerted in order to bring about decisive political action... Unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment. (179)

We know how unsustainable is the behavior of those who constantly consume and destroy, while others are not yet able to live in a way worthy of their human dignity. (193)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we may grow in both our humility and solidarity, and actively seek to eliminate the distance that separates us from one another, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That God may give us a sense of compassion and solidarity, enabling us to work side by side with others for the good of our communities and the protection of our common home, the Earth, 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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