

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

## Homily Resources and Petitions for the

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (18 November 2018)

### Homily Helps

† **Scripture passages to note:**

**Daniel 12**

But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

**Psalms 16**

You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

**Hebrews 10**

(Christ) took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool.

**Mark 13**

Learn a lesson from the fig tree... Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### † **Comment for the day:**

The passage from the Book of Daniel speaks of a time unsurpassed in distress. It is in that context that the prophet conveys the vision of hope. In a similar vein, the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews refers to a life-threatening, interpersonal conflict and then paints a vision of God's victory. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus, too, offers a radical hope in the context of anxiety and insecurity.

Our times, too, may feel like being unsurpassed in distress. In the United States, we witness a profound polarization of our society. Our democratic institutions and fundamental ideas about who we are as a nation are under a frontal assault as we begin to slide into an oligarchy and autocracy. The poor, the immigrants and even our land and rivers are being brazenly attacked by the purveyors of greed, fear and racial and class hatred. On top of it, the Catholic Church is now reeling from the clerical sex abuse scandal and cover up. If that was not enough, there is a looming, full-blown climate change catastrophe and a possibility of nuclear war. All that saps and drains our energy and can leave one on the verge of despair. In this context, it is imperative that we hold up hope, that we walk on the path of beauty, and cultivate joy. The ancient words and images that come to us through the Sacred Scripture and our Tradition still have power, but to bring them back to life we also need contemporary images, stories, examples that inform and inspire.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to learn the lesson from the fig tree. Perhaps, he is inviting us to re-discover the Book of Nature. It is one of the ways that God speaks to us. Allow God to empower you with a message of hope offered through the New Cosmology and the remarkable insights from the amazing story of evolution. Or go for a walk and look for God's message of hope and transformation in God's creation around you.

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

At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. *1 Cor* 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: "I make all things new" (*Rev* 21:5). Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all. (#243)

In the meantime, 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. Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (#244)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That the beauty of God's creation and its fragility awaken within us a deeper, spiritual connection with the world and compel us to a moral responsibility to safeguard it, we pray to the Lord.....

**Option 2:** For scientists, environmental organizations, and independent media that are raising people's awareness of the gravity and urgency of climate crisis, stir hope, and mobilize others to take a decisive action, we 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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