

Integral Faith

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



Homily Resources and Petitions for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Cycle B (6 December, 2020)

Homily Helps

† Scripture passages to note:

Isaiah 40: [T]he glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together...

Psalms 85: Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

2 Peter 3: [A]ccording to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Mark 1: A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'

† Comment for the day:

The season of Advent is an invitation to renewal, to starting over, and to conversion. The readings of this Sunday highlight all these themes. Isaiah speaks of the glory of the Lord that will be revealed; it will be manifested to all people, and united together they will behold it. The responsorial psalm proclaims that a time is coming when kindness and truth will meet, and justice and peace will kiss. Truth will spring up from the earth itself. Peter speaks of the new heavens and the new earth that we await, and this new earth will be characterized by righteousness. Finally, the Gospel of Mark is a call to change; we must prepare the way and make straight the path.

In each age the Church must appropriate this message anew. When Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato si'* he applied this theme of renewal to our relationship with God, with our neighbors, especially those who suffer injustice, and with the Earth itself. In the new heavens and new earth proclaimed in our readings, no one is excluded; all enjoy the bounty of creation, and all work for its flourishing. In *Laudato si'* Pope Francis repeatedly calls on us to rededicate ourselves to the common good, reminding us that the goods of the earth are meant for everyone. The Pope makes it abundantly clear that justice is a key element of this new Earth we await. All people are connected, and we all depend on one another.

While we may be familiar with the call to heed the cry of the poor, especially at this time when we are to prepare the way of the Lord, we may not have considered how care for the Earth is integral to this mandate. When the Earth is degraded, the wealthy can more easily insulate themselves from harm and suffering, but the poor cannot. Pope Francis thus asks us, do we hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor? As we call upon God to renew the Earth, are we open to being instruments of that renewal? During this Advent may God instill in us His Spirit of healing and of hope.

The pandemic we are experiencing confronts us with the reality that the poor around the world are suffering disproportionately. In the U.S. people in certain zip codes have much higher percentages of people who contract Covid 19. Those with no insurance and no job are especially vulnerable. Many, many

people are taking to heart their solidarity with these people by helping them with food, shelter and other needs.

This resource is provided by the Integral Faith Team in collaboration with the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), the [Association of U.S. Catholic Priests](#), and the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#)
Homily Helps (continued)

† **Passages from *Laudato si'* to note:**

Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity. (#18)

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. (#23)

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (#42)

Today...we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (#49)

[A]ny genuine attempt by groups within society to introduce change is viewed as a nuisance based on romantic illusions or an obstacle to be circumvented. (#54)

For all our limitations, gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but well up within us, since we were made for love. (#58)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the season of Advent will enkindle in us a fire of love and solidarity for all God's creation and for all our sisters and brothers, especially those who are most in need, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That we might be inspired by the words of Pope Francis to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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

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