

Integral Faith

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



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A (November 12, 2023)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Wisdom 6: Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.... and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care.

Psalms 63: O God, you are my God whom I seek ... and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.... and through the night-watches I will meditate on you ... and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

1 Thessalonians 4: We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you might not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

Matthew 25: "'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

† Comments for the Day:

In our first reading, Wisdom is personified as a woman and addresses the rulers of the earth. Wisdom is God's spirit and those that follow her are sons and daughters of God. Wisdom is an image of God's eternal light. She is needed by the rulers the earth to lead their people in the right paths and to reflect God's love for them.

The psalmist writes how our earthly relationship with our Creator is conveyed through uniquely human expression: verbal praise, meditation and prayer, and even shouts of joy. Conversely, God expresses Himself through, among other things, creation itself: the land, sea, sky, and all living things.

Paul, writing from prison, reassures the Thessalonians that their loved ones who had died waiting for Jesus to come again would come back, and that all the living believers would join them in heaven.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable that urges us to be awake and prepared for the times when God comes into our lives. He calls us to see the ways we can bring about peace and justice. This includes, as Pope Francis emphasizes in *Laudato Si'*, environmental justice for the poorest of the earth who suffer most from problems like climate change.

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.

This week's readings remind us that such justice is guided by wisdom, hopeful vigilance, and our relationship with God and His creation – "our common home."

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

The bishops of Japan, for their part, made a thought-provoking observation: "To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope". This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since "for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice". (85)

Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more"... Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. (222)

May our struggles and concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone . . . his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!* (244, 245)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

O Option 1: That we may cultivate gratitude for the simple things that make our lives joyful, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we may be watchful for the times that God speaks to us in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

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