

Integral Faith

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



Homily Helps and Petitions for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle A (November 30, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Isaiah 2: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Romans 13: You know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the day draws near. Let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Matthew 24: For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. . . . Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

† Comments for the Day:

As Advent begins, our scriptures invite us to reawaken to hope. We live in a time when constant political conflict, never-ending wars, and a steady drumbeat of climate disasters can easily turn us into gloomy cynics. Advent calls us back to our fundamental faith conviction that the world belongs to God, and that God is already at work to sanctify and save it in God's own time and way. If we are not alert, we can easily miss the signs of God's activity hidden among the smoke and mirrors of the world's daily drama.

Jesus gives his disciples the example of an unexpected flood that bursts in and destroys everything. This example is very true-to-life for those who have been caught in climate disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, floods, landslides, or extreme heat waves. Few expect or prepare properly for such a calamity. Yet the number of us who will experience them increases every day.

Jesus counsels preparation; but he means much more than just being physically prepared by having an escape plan and a go-bag. Real preparation is cultivating the spiritual sensitivity to attend to what God is asking of us in each moment. Before the fire or flood or heat wave happens, are we remaining caught up in our own concerns instead of paying attention to what we can do to make our local and global environment less prone to the imbalances that set off these catastrophes? When disaster strikes, are we focused only on saving our own belongings or do we stretch ourselves to build networks of care for the most vulnerable?

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.

If we are not spiritually prepared, the baser instincts are likely to take over in times of great stress. Instead, we are called to be people of hope who joyfully walk in the light of Jesus even when the world is falling apart around us.

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

We need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair. Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. Still, we can see signs that things are now reaching a breaking point, due to the rapid pace of change and degradation; these are evident in large-scale natural disasters as well as social and even financial crises, for the world's problems cannot be analyzed or explained in isolation. There are regions now at high risk and, aside from all doomsday predictions, the present world system is certainly unsustainable from a number of points of view, for we have stopped thinking about the goals of human activity. (61)

We know how unsustainable is the behaviour of those who constantly consume and destroy, while others are not yet able to live in a way worthy of their human dignity. That is why the time has come to accept decreased growth in some parts of the world, in order to provide resources for other places to experience healthy growth. Benedict XVI has said that “technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles, while reducing their energy consumption and improving its efficiency”. (193)

To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to much greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfilment. 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. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures. (222)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That during Advent we may grow more alert to how God cares for the created world, and that we may find ways to do our part heal its wounds, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That God will give spiritual sustenance to those impacted by climate disasters, while human communities make provision for meeting their physical needs, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

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

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