

## **Caring for Our Common Home: Liturgy Resources**

"Weekly *Laudato Si'* themes for bulletins and homilists."

### **Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle C (18 September 2016)**

#### **Homily Helps**

##### Comment for the day:

The prophet Amos spoke his prophesy at a time when the northern kingdom of Israel was very successful economically. And yet, under the veneer of prosperity and religious observance, the poor and vulnerable were being crushed to the ground. The travesty of this injustice was not just a social issue of the day. For the prophet Amos, it was also an insult of God.

The responsorial psalm has woven together beautifully praise of God as creator and sustainer of the earth with acknowledgment of God's action of lifting up the poor and oppressed. This psalm reminds us that our liturgies and ministries should keep all these elements in a healthy, creative balance.

St. Paul tells us that out of our concern for peace and common good it is our Christian duty to pray for all in authority. In this light, the exercise of power and authority is a serious and holy responsibility, not one to be taken lightly. What would St. Paul say about the coarsening of our political discourse today? How would he view the apathy and superficiality of contemporary commentators, who blur the distinction with entertainment and thereby undermine serious consideration of the common good and the particular issues that confront us?

In teaching his disciples about the Kingdom of God, Jesus draws on examples from nature and the daily experience of ordinary people. Jesus paid attention to what was going on around him. Are we, too, called to preach? In this parable, Jesus praises the resourcefulness and determination of people considered morally questionable in his day. If they are able to respond to those in need around them, how much more so should Jesus's own disciples?

How are we to carry on the mission of Jesus and bring the good news to the poor and liberty to captives? As Christian stewards, how do we act on the basis of both charity and justice? The steward in the parable of Jesus found it easy to be generous because the goods he managed belonged to his master. But is that not also true for each of us? Is it not the case that everything we possess comes from and belongs to God? What does that teach us about our own possessiveness? In a world where large corporations put the squeeze on local farmers and gentrification crowds people out of their own neighborhoods, are we ourselves sensitive to the plight of people who cannot afford housing, insurance, education, a clean environment, or the other necessities of life? Are we aware of the plight of people within our own parish boundaries who might be struggling?

## Homily Helps (cont.)

### Scripture passages to note:

**Amos 8:** Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!

**Psalm 113:** He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with princes, with the princes of his own people.

**1 Timothy 2:** Ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life.

**Luke 16:** The children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.... The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. You cannot serve both God and mammon.

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

Authentic development includes efforts to bring about an integral improvement in the quality of human life, and this entails considering the setting in which people live their lives. These settings influence the way we think, feel and act. In our rooms, our homes, our workplaces and neighborhoods, we use our environment as a way of expressing our identity. (#147)

Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, both in rural areas and in large cities, since state budgets usually cover only a small portion of the demand....Creativity should be shown in integrating rundown neighborhoods into a welcoming city: "How beautiful those cities which overcome paralyzing mistrust, integrate those who are different and make this very integration a new factor of development! How attractive are those cities which, even in their architectural design, are full of spaces which connect, relate and favor the recognition of others!" (#152)

## Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That every family be able to find a safe and affordable housing, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 2: For the victims of human trafficking, the unborn, and the immigrants whose lives are being trampled upon, may our charity and commitment to justice reflect our devotion to Our God, who lifts up the poor, let us pray to the Lord....

Option 3: For our elected officials and all men and women in positions of authority, may they act with integrity and pursue the common good of the entire community of life on Earth, let us pray to the Lord....

## Further Resources

Webpage: <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/preaching-resources>

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