

# GospelEco

Sunday Gospel from the Ecological aspect  
First Sunday of Advent,  
(November 28, 2021).

## 1. Context

What proceedings in Nature make us to fear or to worry?  
What interpretation do we give them?  
What meanings are we to give it in this Gospel?

The Gospel of this Sunday, the first of Advent, presents terrifying cosmic events, typical of apocalyptic language. These catastrophic events are not strange to us, we can even refer to the effects or manifestations of the climate change that we are experiencing. While environmental disasters are still real and bothersome, the element of the Gospel is trust worthy and asks to pay watchful attention.

Lk 21, 25-28.34-36

## 2. Gospel

"And there will be signs in Sun and Moon and Stars, and upon the Earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 Men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near...34 "But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; 35 for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. 36 But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man."



## 3. Eco-reflection

The central element of the Gospel is the coming of the Son of man and with it the time of our liberation-salvation. The inclusion of the cosmic elements, "which will be shaken", make us think about the extension of liberation, that is, it does not only refer to our own liberation, but to that of the entire universe, which will also be liberated, fulfilled in Christ. This is what we Christians believe in, because we are certain that, in God's project of love, each creature has a value and a meaning (Cf. Laudato Si 76) and in Christ everything is liberated.

Therefore, the Word of this Sunday is an invitation to pay attention to the footprints of the Lord in our history, with the confidence that He is acting in it and in all creation. It is also a call to be "awake and in continuous supplication" in the face of life's difficulties. And here we can say that the dream caused by consumerism is leading us to destruction, conformity and despair. From this it is also urgent to wake up.

It is the Word prayed and meditated upon that keeps us with an active hope, that is, with our trust placed in the Lord and at the same time firm and committed to the life that unfolds in all of creation.

## 4. Commitment

- What am I willing to change or assume in this season of Advent to grow in an active hope and to collaborate in favor of the care of Creation?

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Lord, may we live this Advent as a privileged time to remember your continued presence in the world, to work for your Kingdom and await your liberation. Amen.