



build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



ordinary  
time



lectionary  
reading

## Cycle B

### Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary #158

#### Reading I: Daniel 12:1-3

Although the book of Daniel is named after its main character, a prophet, it is actually considered to be apocalyptic in nature. Like all apocalyptic writings, this work seeks to give believers hope so that they are able to **persevere** during challenging times and look forward to God's intervention, which will put an end to all evil. The battle between the powers of good and evil are dominant themes in both the Scriptures and in human experiences. Because of these dichotomies, it is essential to hear words of hope in order to encourage people to **persevere**.

#### Reading 2: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

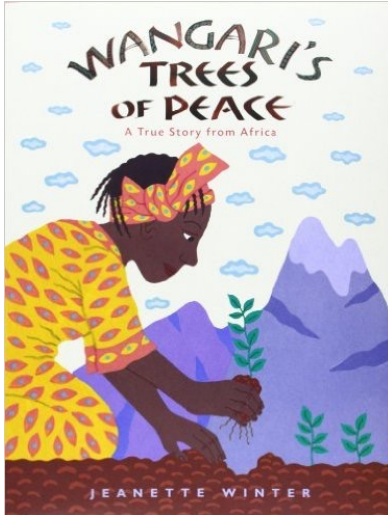
The writer of Hebrews speaks about how the early church expected Jesus' second coming to be immediate. However, it did not happen right away, and instead, evil seemed to be present everywhere. Because of this, there needed to be a message that would give people hope so that they would **persevere** in their faith. This letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus, who came to save us from evil and sacrificed himself for us, draws us closer to a new relationship with God, who intends for everyone to be saved. **Perseverance** is a virtue that strengthens us to move forward instead of allowing the past to oppress us.

#### Gospel: Mark 13: 24-32

This Gospel selection from Saint Mark continues the apocalyptic theme seen in today's first two readings. It begins when Jesus describes some of the typical signs that God's plan is nearing its end. He quotes Daniel's description of the glorious appearance of the Messiah, and urges the disciples to be attentive to the signs that will occur. However, he cautions them against allowing the signs to overtake them, and instead says that they should remain solid in their faith and **persevere** in their trust in God. As the liturgical year comes to an end, the Church chooses such readings to emphasize the three-fold coming of Christ: in history, in the present, and in the glory at the completion of the final age. This passage emphasizes the need to **persevere** in trust at all times.



## children's story



### *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*

Written by Jeanette Winter

Illustrated by Jeanette Winter

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character  
education  
activity

**per-se-ver-ance: a noun-  
steadfastness in doing  
something despite difficulty  
or delay in achieving success**

## Wangari's Trees of Peace

This is the true story of Wangari Maathan, a young girl growing up in Kenya. During her childhood, Wangari's village was always surrounded by trees and the songs of birds. A very bright student, Wangari is awarded a scholarship to study in the United States and is away for six years. When she returns home to Kenya, she is shocked to see the barren land: deforestation has taken place while she has been away, and the trees and bird songs are all gone. Wangari is determined to do something, and so she plants nine seedling trees. Although Wangari faces ridicule and imprisonment, she **perseveres** in her pursuit to do good.

## How to Keep a Journal

Step One: Provide each student with a composition book that they can decorate with positive words, symbols, pictures, and colored paper.

Step Two: Invite the students to interview themselves and answer the following questions in their newly created personal journal.

- Describe a time when you worked especially hard to accomplish a goal.
- What was important about this goal that kept you working towards it?
- Describe a time when you felt like giving up. What were you thinking and feeling?
- What or who motivated you to keep going?
- Can you recall what made it difficult for you to continue?
- How did you feel when you accomplished the task?
- Do you recall various times or points during the process when you asked God for help?
- Finally, draw a trophy to celebrate your success.

If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.  
-Martin Luther King Jr.



case study

Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.

## What could you do today?

Choose a goal that you would like to strive towards. Begin by asking God to help you every step of the way. With your teacher or an adult family member, develop a "backward plan" and timeline to accomplish the goal that you wish to accomplish.

Remember to include God as you plan the steps towards achieving your final goal. Remember that God is the one who will help you **persevere** if you stumble or feel like giving up.

## Look Feel Know Act

There are countless famous people in history and in the present day that have been told that they could not do something, but this did not stop them from achieving many great things. Instead of listening to these negative voices, they **persevered** and moved forward. Take a look at the youtube video about Nick Vujicic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNnVdlvodTQ>

After watching this video, think about something in your own life that you feel you cannot overcome. In a prayer, bring this challenge to God and be open to God's actions as you **persevere**. Remember that God is ultimately in charge, and that things occur according to God's timeline, not ours. Do not give up hope that things will work out, but instead **persevere** and be patient in the work of God.

**Perseverance** is vital if we are to grow in our faith. God wants every person to **persevere** no matter what happens. We are called individually and as a community to overcome obstacles, difficulties, trials, and challenges so that we might eventually experience victory in Christ Jesus. The readings chosen for this weekend along with the book *Wangari's Trees of Peace* illustrate how important it is to **persevere** no matter what challenges you may face.



**closing  
tool**

**Loving God, be with me throughout each and every event in my life. I willingly invite you to be part of every step that I take. Lord, please be with me especially as I face challenges in my life. Help me to always persevere, especially in my faith in you. Amen.**



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