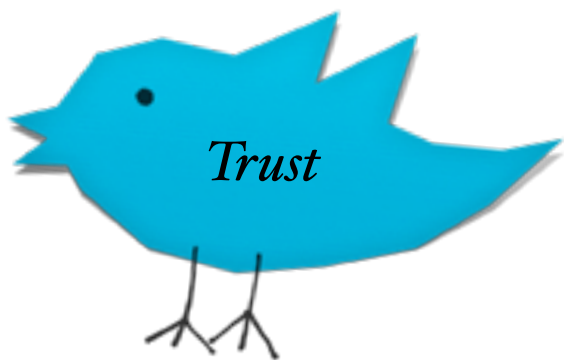




build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



ordinary  
time



lectionary  
reading

## Cycle C

### Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #159

#### Reading I: Malachi 3: 19-20A

All three readings speak of the end times on this final Sunday before the close of the liturgical year with the Feast of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Despite the ominous tone to these readings, each speak of a **trust** that is essential to all believers. In this first reading, the prophet Malachi speaks of the downfall and utter destruction of evildoers. The righteous will have nothing be concerned about because they have held their **trust** in God. In fact, Malachi consoles the believers because even in the midst of the destruction around them they will be sustained.

#### Reading 2: 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12

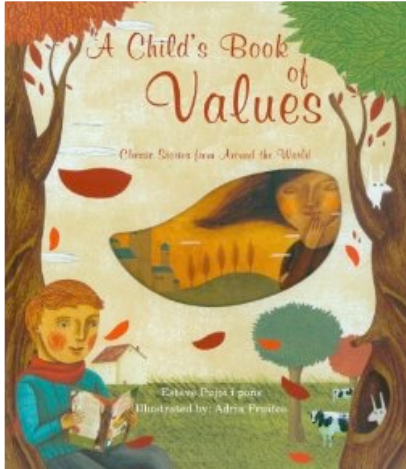
Saint Paul admonishes members of the Thessalonian community for not being attentive to their duties. Some in the community are expecting the end time imminently and therefore decide to just wait. By doing so they cause more burden to be placed on others in the community. Without being contributors they become an interference in the lives of others, causing great discord. Saint Paul is very clear that **trusting in God** leaves no room for idleness or irresponsibility.

#### Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

In tandem with the other readings selected for this weekend, the gospel of Luke continues with the theme of the "end-times." The gospel writer has Jesus painting a picture of utter destruction, turmoil, and enmity among people, even family members. Vivid images are drawn of the events; however, Jesus comforts those who hear of these experiences with the fact that their **trust** in Him will accompany them and sustain them throughout. He assures them that they need not worry, even in the midst of being hated because of His name. Ultimately **trust** and perseverance will see the believer through.



children's  
story



### *A Child's Book of Values*

Written by Esteve Pujol i Pons

Illustrated by Adria Fruitos

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character  
education  
activity

**Trust, the noun, is defined as  
the firm belief in the  
reliability, truth, ability or  
strength of someone or  
something.**

## *A Child's Book of Values*

This collection of stories is invaluable and beautifully illustrated. These are classic stories from around the world that focus on values. The story of Sujman, the Hero, a Russian Folktale located on pages 51-54 is appropriate for this Sunday's particular focus on **trust**. The story involves a soldier of great integrity and a ruler who does not **trust** the soldier's integrity. The soldier speaks his truth by revealing to the ruler that he cannot be associated with anyone who does not **trust** in the goodness of another. The soldier leaves the palace of the ruler for this reason.

**Trust** is crucial to any relationship. It is that which holds a relationship together and without it, no familial relationship, friendship, or working relationship can be firmly established. It is a sad event that our human weakness may cause us to fail in being honest with one another; however, we can always rely on and **trust** in God.

## *Going on a Trust Walk*

Step One: Separate the students into groups of two. Blindfold one of the pair and instruct each couple to hold hands. The non-blindfolded individual of the pair guides the blindfolded student as they **slowly** walk together on normal terrain or through an obstacle course the teacher has arranged. Again, be sure any obstacles set up are safe and age appropriate.

Step Two: Have the students change roles and do the **trust** walk again.

The someone we place  
our ultimate trust in:  
**God!**  
The something we  
place our ultimate  
trust in: **our faith!**



case study

Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.

## What could you do today?

**Trusting** someone in a relationship is a gradual process. The environment we live in places a **trust** in us that we will care for it and nurture it since it provides all kinds of wonderful things for us such as air, water and food. Make a commitment to be a steward, one who cares for things, for the earth. If there is a program in the school or parish that does recycling, get involved in the program. If there is not one established, talk to your teacher and other adults to help begin such a program that will help care for the earth's resources.

## Look Feel Know Act

Throughout the New Testament Jesus speaks of **trusting** in Him and also speaks of the fact that fear is useless and that what is needed is **trust**. God always answers our prayers and we can always **trust** that God will answer our prayers. However, we must also **trust** that God will answer them in the manner that will be best for us and in a time that God deems best for us.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the destruction of the evildoer but also speaks of the healing presence of God in the midst of the downfall of the unfaithful. This prophet and all of the prophets throughout the Holy Scriptures will speak of the unfailing love that God has for us and that we are to **trust** in this always. Likewise, Saint Paul speaks of **trusting** in the Lord, but not to allow that **trust** to be inactive and complacent. **Trust** and faith are active for they are the words of a relationship and any relationship must be active on both sides.

In Luke's gospel selection for today, Jesus continues the theme of **trusting** God and holding firm that God is with us in the midst of all things, good and bad.

Make a commitment to yourself to be a person of **trust**, most especially in God. Use a mantra prayer (a prayer that is a short phrase said over and over again). One such prayer is: "Lord Jesus Christ, I place my **trust** in You."



## closing tool

In the story of Sujman, the Hero, found in *A Child's Book of Values*, we see the immense value and importance of **trust** in any relationship but most importantly the **trust** that is crucial to our faith life with God.

Pray the mantra prayer of trust.  
“Lord Jesus Christ, I place my trust in You.” Recall this prayer and pray it in times where you feel overwhelmed, and remember that you can always trust Jesus.



**Santa Clara  
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics

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[www.scu.edu/character](http://www.scu.edu/character)