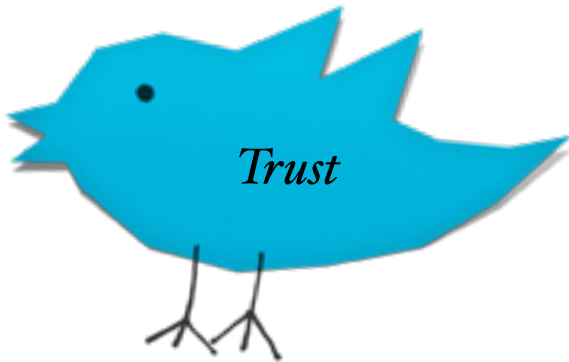




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



easter



lectionary
reading

Cycle A

Ascension of the Lord

Lectionary #58

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11

Although one might think that the Ascension would be seen as an ending, it actually marks a beginning. This segment from the Acts of the Apostles recognizes the early Church's movement in evangelizing and making the person of Jesus known. The letter is being addressed to Theophilus, which means *lover of God*. We are also being addressed because we too are lovers of God and as such, we are called to **trust** in Jesus, who cannot visibly be seen but is always with us. Just as the young community of the Church was called to be **trusting**, so are we. We are called to carry on in the name of Jesus until he returns in glory. No one knows when the Lord will return, and so we are commissioned to **trust** and carry on the work of Jesus, knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us on this mission.

Reading 2: Ephesians 1: 17-23

In today's reading from Ephesians, Saint Paul outlines the fact that God's mighty plan has been unfolded in the life of Jesus, who, after dying and rising, sits in power at the right hand of the Father. Saint Paul encourages the community at Ephesus to **trust** that Jesus is with them and that they are his body along with every human being that believes in Christ Jesus. As members of his body, we share in the exaltation of Jesus, who is head of the body. We are called to **trust** in the fact that what God did for Jesus by raising him from the dead, God did for all of us who believe in the mystery of baptism.

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

Although the beginning of this Gospel selection indicates doubt among the disciples, we see within just a few lines that the Lord gives a commission to the disciples to continue his work. He empowers them to *Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations*. They are called to leave doubt behind and **trust**. **Trust** that they will be able to enter into this commissioning and **trust** that Jesus will be with them always, *until the end of the age.* 1



children's
story



The Rainbow Story

Written by Fay Runkel Azar

Illustrated by Fay Runkel Azar

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character
education
activity

**Although the life of a person is
in a land full of thorns and
weeds, there is always a space
in which good seed can grow.
You have to trust in God.
Pope Francis**

The Rainbow Story

The Rainbow Story actually includes two stories in reference to a rainbow and covenant of **trust** between God and the human race. One of the stories is about Noah and the great flood. This first story reminds us about how God keeps everything afloat. God is the anchor in the midst of the winds and waves of the storms that come into our life. God is the One whom we can always **trust**. The second story of the rainbow is a recounting of the author's experience of a rainbow appearing during the trials and tribulations in her own life and the **trust** that she places in God throughout these experiences.

Activity: The Trust Bracelet

Step One: Teach the students what a mantra prayer is. A mantra prayer is a short phrase that is repeated over and over again. In this case, you might teach the students a mantra such as *O God, I place my trust in You.*

Step Two: Provide each student with the necessary supplies to build their own trust bracelet:

1. String, heavy yarn, or some other base for the bracelet
2. Colorful beads
3. Lettered beads that spell out T-R-U-S-T-G-O-D

Have one bracelet already made so that the students may see what the finished product should look like. You may wish to demonstrate how to make it for the students along with giving them verbal instructions.

Step Three: Have the students pray their their mantra prayer quietly as they are assembling their bracelets.

Step Four: Have the students pair up and tie the bracelet on one another's wrists; while they do this, have both of them pray their mantra prayer aloud.

All I have seen teaches
me to trust the creator
for all that I have not
seen.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

What could you do today?

Take some time to make a list of all the people you trust and the things that you **trust** them to do. For example, you might think of the janitor at your school and how you **trust** the janitor to make sure that the school hallways and classrooms are clean everyday. Make a chart with two columns. On the left side of the paper, write the name of the person and on the right side, hand the things that you **trust** them to do for you.

Person	Trust	Have you thanked them?
Teacher	to teach me	Yes/no



case study

Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.

Look Feel Know Act

Look at the people you place your **trust** in for the various things and services in your life. Come to realize that people also place their **trust** in you. It is important to know what these trusts are and to remain as faithful to them as you can. What would it be like if you went home after school and really wanted something to eat, but you found that the person you **trusted** to provide food for you did not do so? Maybe you would feel uncared for and sad as well as hungry. When we become aware of the importance of **trusting**, we are most likely going to make a greater commitment to being people of **trust**. As human beings, we may sometimes fail in the area of **trust**, but God is always **trustworthy** and faithful.



closing tool

In *The Rainbow Story*, we encounter two rainbows, the one in Noah and the great flood and the one in the author's story. In both cases, the rainbow is a reminder that we can always **trust** in God. In the same way, we hear the words of Jesus as he leaves the Earth during the Ascension: *And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*. It is absolutely essential that we remember these words. They can also be a mantra prayer to remind us of the **trust** we can always have in our God.

The closing prayer might simply be one of the two mantra prayers:

O God, I place my trust in you

Or

*And behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age.*

Amen.



**Santa Clara
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