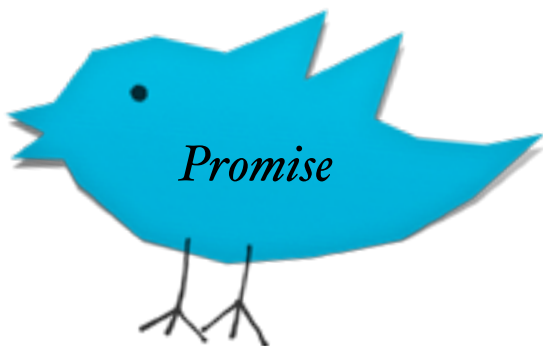




build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



ordinary  
time



lectionary  
reading

Cycle A, B, and C

## The Solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Lectionary #64I

### Reading I: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

The prophet Daniel is writing to the nation of Israel while it is in the midst of turmoil and distress. The conquering nation was attempting to profane the Temple in Jerusalem by making the Jews worship their gods. The prophet Daniel proclaims that God will be with the nation of Israel and that all things will be resolved according to God's **promise** to be with them. This will be an ongoing theme with the prophets as they assure Israel that God will not back out of his **promise** to hold the nation close no matter the present circumstances.

### Reading 2: 2 Peter 1:16-19

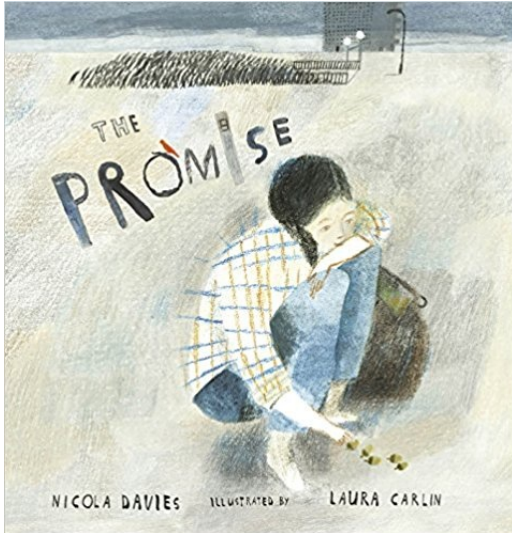
Saint Peter writes this letter to encourage the Christians to live godly lives so that they make be partakers of the divine nature. He encourages them to live with virtue so that they can be faithful embers of a covenant between God and humanity. They are called to be people of **promise**. Jesus has **promised** to come again and this **promise** serves to encourage people to live virtuous lives. The **promise** is coming and will be fulfilled, and Saint Peter is encouraging all to prepare for that day by living lives of holiness.

### Gospel: Matthew 7:1-9 (A), Mark 9:2-10 (B), Luke 9:28b-36 (C)

In all three cycles of the Liturgical Year, the obvious Gospel choice is the story of the Transfiguration as it occurs in all of the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Common to each account is the center placement of Jesus between the greatest Law-giver (Moses) and the greatest of the prophets (Elijah). The spatial placement indicates that Jesus is the fulfillment of both the Law and the Prophets. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's **promise**.



## children's story



### *The Promise*

Written by Nicola Davis

Illustrated by Laura Carlin

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character  
education  
activity

**Our Lord has written the  
promise of resurrection, not in  
books alone, but in every leaf  
in springtime.  
-Martin Luther**

## *The Promise*

*The Promise* is a beautiful and transformative story about a young thief who, through an encounter of kindness, experiences a transformation. As she tries to snatch an older woman's handbag, the woman holds securely to the bag and states that the only way she will relinquish the bag is if the girl **promises** to plant whatever is inside it. She makes the **promise** to get the bag and finds that it is full of acorns. As she begins to plan the acorns, she sees the transformation of the gray and ugly streets into a colorful thoroughfare. The colors accentuate the change that comes when people keep their **promises**.

## **Activity: A Promise Board**

Step One: Provide the students with several pieces of colorful construction paper in different shapes and sizes.

Step Two: Invite the students to write a **promise** to God on each of the pieces of paper (3-4 total).

Step Three: Arrange the **promises** on the bulletin board and read each of them aloud as you add them to the board.

Step Four: As the class meets in the coming weeks, encourage the students to place their initials on **promises** that they have fulfilled. Additionally, you could incorporate the promises into the class prayer each day or at the beginning of each week.

Let God's promises  
shine on your problems!  
-Corrie Ten Boom



case study

Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.

## What could you do today?

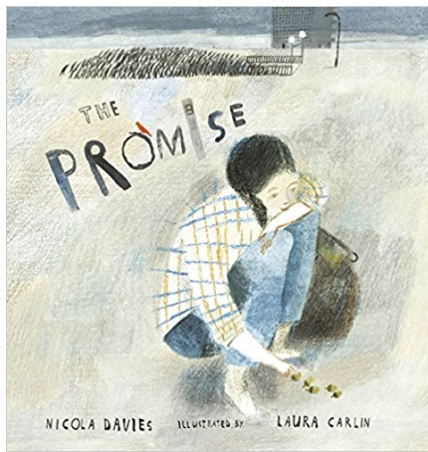
Spend some time with your parents and develop a **promise** report card that you can put up on the refrigerator. Every morning, take a moment to look at the **promise** report card and keep track of the **promises** that you have fulfilled. The following are some suggestions:

- I **promise** to say my morning prayers and ask God to guide me throughout my day
- I **promise** to thank God before each meal
- I **promise** to make my bed every morning
- I **promise** to pick up my toys and clothing and put them away neatly
- I **promise** to play with my dog or cat
- I **promise** to...

## Look Feel Know Act

The next time you are out traveling in a car, notice if you see any litter at various places along the road. How do those things look out of place and take away from the natural environment along the road? How does it make you feel to see litter?

Think of what God has given us in all the beautiful things on Earth and in nature, and then think about how litter detracts from that beauty. Make a **promise** with God and with the Earth that you will not litter and that, when you are able to, you will pick up litter and put it in its proper place. It is always best to do this with adults to make it a family adventure!



God is always faithful to the **promises** he made to us. However, we are sometimes not always faithful in keeping our **promises** to God. In the readings, we are reminded of the **promises** made to us by God. In the story of *The Promise*, we see the beauty that is brought into the world when a girl keeps her **promise**. We can change the world by being **promise**-keepers and by recognizing that it takes effort to keep **promises**. To do this successfully, we must ask God for help and turn to one another to remain faithful to our **promises**.



closing  
tool

Loving God, source of every good thing and keeper of every promise, help me to imitate You so that I may keep my promise to love You and to love my neighbor. May I see You in them and keep the promise to love them. Amen.



**Santa Clara  
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics  
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

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