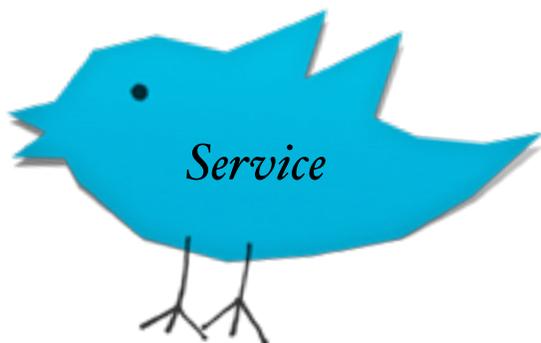




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle B

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Lectionary #161

Reading I: Daniel 7: 13-14

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe celebrates the closing of the liturgical year. As individuals who have chosen to follow Christ, it is important for us to remember exactly what kind of “king” we are following. Throughout the Scriptures, Jesus presents himself as a king who came to **serve** and not to be **served**. This final Sunday of the liturgical year gives us another opportunity to reflect on the role of “king” that we were given at our baptism. We are called to think about how well we have fulfilled the role of **servant** king in the past year.

Reading 2: Revelations 1: 5-8

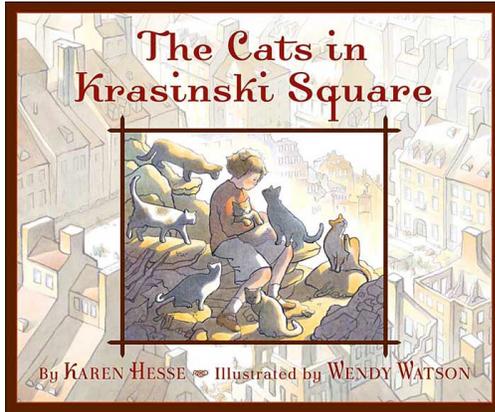
Even though there is a triumphant tone to this passage, it is important that the passage is understood in the context of who Jesus Christ is as a **servant** king. In doing his **service**, Jesus triumphed over sin and death. This passage reminds us that through Jesus, a final age will come when evil, sin, and death will be destroyed forever.

Gospel: John 18: 33B-37

In this passage from Saint John’s Gospel, Pilate, an earthly ruler, questions Jesus about whether or not he is a king. Pilate is caught in the direct and narrow understanding of earthly kingship, while Jesus represents a divine kingship, which is one where he acts as a **servant**. Jesus is a leader who is so different from the leaders of today, who are often seen as failures. People yearn for a leader who will care for and **serve** them. Be attentive to the fact that a true **servant** leader attends to the needs of the people rather than to their “wants.”



children's
story



The Cats in Krasinski Square

Written by Karen Hesse

Illustrated by Wendy Watson

Publication: Scholastic Press; First Edition
(Sept. 1, 2004)

ISBN-10: 0439435404

ISBN-13: 978-0439435406



character
education
activity

**The best place to find yourself
is to lose yourself in service to
others.**

-Mahatma Gandhi

The Cats in Krasinski Square

Set in Warsaw in 1942, this picture book brings to life a little-known act of Jewish resistance to the Nazi regime. A young girl who escaped from the Ghetto and lives with her older sister does great works of **service**. Along with her friends, they provide food to those who are starving in the Ghetto. When the Gestapo learn about what they have been doing, they send a pack of food-sniffing dogs to track down the bundles of food that are coming in on the trains for those in the Ghetto. The little girl, who often plays with the cats who live outside of the Ghetto, devises a scheme to gather the cats in baskets and have them divert the dogs' attention away from the bundles of food. Through her clever thinking, she and her friends are able to continue doing **service** for others.

Practicing Service for Others

Step One: If possible, invite a representative from the local Meals-On-Wheels program or a similar **service** agency to come and talk to your students about the importance of providing **service** to those in need.

Step Two: Give the students plain paper placemats or pieces of paper and art supplies so that they can create a decorated placemat to be delivered with the meals. If time permits, have the students decorate several placemats so that they might be used on a number of different special occasions.

**Always render more
and better service than
is expected of you, no
matter what your task
may be.
-Og Mandino**



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

When people think of **service**, they often think about helping people who are strangers. However, we are also given many opportunities to be of **service** to people in our own lives, including those in our families. Have a conversation with your family members and ask them about what would be helpful to them in their daily lives. These could be simple things, like doing an extra chore or helping a sibling with their homework. Think about your age and abilities when considering the **service** that you might want to do for them, and try to find ways to practice **servicing** those closest to you on a regular basis. Remember the words of Mother Theresa of Calcutta: *We are not called to do great things but rather simple things with great love!*

Look Feel Know Act

There are many news articles and stories of people who are in need of very simple things. Along with your classmates and their families, try to identify some act of **service** that you and your classmates could do to help meet the needs of those in your community. Once you have identified a need, come up with a plan for how you can work to meet this need. If possible, include others in your school and parish to participate in this **service** project.

Service is at the very heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition. In the readings chosen for this Sunday, we see **service** as the dominant theme of the readings and as a primary characteristic of Jesus Christ. The children's book, *The Cats of Krasinski Square*, offers a beautiful example of how important **service** is and how, even in the midst of a challenge, those who strive to **serve** others cannot be discouraged. This story provides a great opportunity for all to learn that doing something good can be difficult, but that the rewards of helping those in need are greater than any adversity.



**closing
tool**

Loving God, allow me to serve others with a joyful heart and spirit. Help me, Lord, to do all that I may without counting the cost, to truly do things so that *my left hand does not know what my right hand is doing.* **Amen.**



**Santa Clara
University**

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