

A. Introduction

Gospel passage: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Jesus describes the sun, moon, stars no longer giving light ... Prophet Daniel speaks of a time of unsurpassed distress ... book of Hebrews speak of that one sacrifice for sins ... reference to the Good Friday event ... so much passing away: tribulation, distress, the end time

- not a consoling picture
- yet, Jesus says that his words will not pass away
- there is something immortal ... something that will last forever

B. What is the language of Jesus – what words / what reality is here to stay

1. First word: Love

- the poet Emily Dickinson writes:
 “Unable are the Loved to die /For Love is Immortality, /
 Nay, it is Deity –

Unable they that love – to die / For Love reforms Vitality /
 Into Divinity.” #809

... God is love ... so, made to God’s image, we are to love
 ... this is active concern for others / respect and reverence / sacrifice
 that we hear about in the second reading

2. Second Word of Jesus: Mercy

- Professor at C.U. – gave a great course on the moral virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance
- special field was justice: giving to each person what is his due ... all about rights and obligations ... distributive, contributive, communal ... waxed eloquently
- last day of class: as much as he admired justice and called us to live it he said: “When I stand before God, I don’t want justice; I want mercy”
- All of us stand in need of God’s mercy ... that mercy is infinite and everlasting.

3. Third Word of Jesus: peace

- peace is His farewell gift to us / all through the liturgy ... peace be with you
- prayer before communion
- Peace = all about right relationships ... things properly ordered
- Eucharist calls us to be peacemakers: agents of union and unity / not division
- St. Francis: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”

C. Hamlet: “There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
 Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.” (I,v,166-167)

- Horatio’s philosophy need to include love, mercy, and peace.