

- You know...one of my favorite old movies is the 1950s sci-fi flick: “The Day the Earth Stood Still”...the spaceship landing on the Mall in Washington, the indestructible robot Gort w/ the laser eye...the ultimate message of peace, etc.
- Do you remember the 3 words that saved the world?
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- Sure, the special effects are cheesy compared to today’s, but it’s a great movie nonetheless. Science and scientists get good press in that movie, by the way.
- One of my favorite scenes is when the alien Klatu looks at the blackboard of the world greatest scientist Prof. Barnhardt’s where the professor is trying to mathematically derive some complex physical principle.
- Klatu simply smiles like a benevolent teacher at the ham-fisted scribbling work of an ardently sincere, but struggling, pupil, and then corrects and completes the professor’s flailing attempts.
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- Sometimes I think Jesus had to have felt like that with the apostles—dealing with their infighting, pride, lack of faith, prejudices, etc.
- And this is why in the Last Supper discourse from which our Gospel came today, He emphasizes repeatedly the necessity of love of God and neighbor.
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- Now this reading is from John’s Gospel, and John must have paid attention because he emphasizes that love of God and neighbor over and over in his first letter, that “...love is of God”...” because “God IS love.”
- And John proves that God displayed His own unquestionable and infinite love for us when he writes: *“In this is love: not that we*

have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins.”

- And thus, God not only says that He loves us, but He shows that He loves us by His own sacrifice of self.
- God has no obligation whatever to do this...to give Himself up on the cross for us.
- And thus that saving act of redemption cannot stem from anything but pure love—not someone WHO loves, but love itself.

- Something to remember as we come to the other theme so emphasized in our readings today: that of “obedience” to God.
- That word “obedience” sounds coercive in our modern freedom-loving ears—as subjecting ourselves to someone.
- ...but when it is subjecting ourselves to the absolute good and pure love, what can be better than that. The great figures of the Bible considered it the highest honor to be known as a slave of God.
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- God is a parent who give instructions to His children for their welfare, just as we tell our children not to play in the street, not to eat junk food all the time, to be kind to others, etc.—not to be tyrannical, but rather because our of our love for them.
- This is why Jesus says: *“If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love...just AS I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in His love.”*
- And so obedience to God and love of God go hand-in-hand, as John writes in his first letter: *“This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments...and His commandments are not burdensome”*...because His commandments stem from love.

- This is why Jesus tells us in our Gospel acclamation today:
“Whoever loves me will keep my word...and the Father will love him and we will come to him.”
- What other motivation does a faithful Christian need than that?...for that is our very hope and goal of our existence and faith.
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- This is why Peter realizes in our first reading today: *“Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him”*... totally overturning the prevalent Jewish idea that only Israelites were the people of God.
- Love of, and obedience to, God brings this all-inclusiveness to everyone; God wants every person to come to Him, for all are His children and made in His image.
- As St. Paul wrote: *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all ONE in Christ Jesus.”* (Galatians 3:28-29)
- There is only one Body of Christ...of which we are all a part—those in Heaven, those in Purgatory, and the faithful of God still in this earthly existence.
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- We remember in scripture that at Pentecost those who converted were from all regions...no one excluded.
- And in the book of Revelation St. John writes of his vision: *“...I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes...”* (Revelation 7:9)
- For, as Peter said: *“...anyone who fears [God] and does what is right is acceptable to Him.”*

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- Like oil and water, love and hatred do not mix.
- As St. John tells us: *“If any one says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.”* (1 John 4:20 RSV)
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- So live in the light of God’s love, and reflect that His love to everyone around you. That is our very mission.
- For, as St. Paul writes: *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing...*
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- So what are the three words that save the world? As Paul continues: *“...faith, hope, [and] love...these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Reading 1 [Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48](#)

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage.

Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being."

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word.

The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also,

for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

Then Peter responded,

"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?"

He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4](#)

R. (cf. 2b) **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;

His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.

R. **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.

R. **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.

R. **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Reading II [1 Jn 4:7-10](#)

Beloved, let us love one another,

because love is of God;

everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:

God sent his only Son into the world

so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:

not that we have loved God, but that he loved us

and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Gospel [Jn 15:9-17](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments

and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,

because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,

because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you

and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,

so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another."