GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, March 7, 2021; Lent III

Lectionary / Selected: Psalm 19; Exodus 20; I Corinthians 1:18-31; John 2:13-25

Sermon Hymn: Lord God, the Holy Ghost

Anthem:

(LBW 162)

## **Inverse Proportion**

'A photon [that is, a particle of light] checks into a hotel and the bellhop asks him if he has any luggage. The photon replies, "No, I'm traveling light". // Two atoms [you know, those components of molecules] are walking down the street. The first one stops and says, "I think I just lost an electron!" The second one replies, "Are you sure?" "I'm positive!" [Because an atom missing an electron is always positively charged. // And from the world of mathematics,] What do you get when you put root beer in a square glass? Answer: Beer. (In math, "root" and "square" cancel out each other.)' // Finally, ponder this: 'A few people are wise; most are otherwise'.

"Otherwise", indeed. I wonder how other-wise they are. Is there an other form of wisdom? No. We instinctively recognize this "other wisdom" as idiocy. And those of us who've gained some maturity and life experience from attaining at least middle-age will all agree that there's a whole lot more idiocy now than there used to be! What's worse is that the idiots have taken over; turned much of country into an insane asylum and the inmates are running it! And we, the sane ones, are left footing the \$1.9T bills and maintaining the equipment to keep it all functioning. If we can euphemistically call our current state of affairs as "func-

tioning". We're like an engine that's backfiring as much or more than it is correctly firing and thus is barely making any headway. All the while putrid, black smoke is pouring out from both our exhaust pipes and from under the hood. We're living in a world of smoke and mirrors where nearly everything we see and hear in our current world is a lie and deception. Where every headline and news report can not be trusted without first examining the sources. We have to be constantly vigilant, never accepting anything as truth until we give it the Biblical smell test. For only what comports with God's Holy Word is true. And a mathematical rule comes into play here. For the closer one holds to the truths of the Holy Bible, the more truth, wisdom and insight one has. It's an inverse proportion. For the less one holds to the Bible, the more foolish, ignorant and insane one becomes. For the Bible is a supernatural book. It is divine, in that it is, not contains, but is, the very words of God Almighty. Hebrews 4:12 warns us: "God's Word is living and powerful. It is sharper than a sword that cuts both ways. It cuts straight into where the soul and spirit meet and it divides them. It cuts into the joints and bones. It tells what the heart is thinking about and what it wants to do" (NLV).

Psalm 19:9-10 declares: "The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold". Now how can that be? Why, in heaven's name could the Ten Commandments be more desirable than the finest gold? Why, if I had a truckload of pure gold bullion I could live in the lap

of luxury and be set up for the rest of my life. I could afford any and everything I could possibly ever want or desire. Why I'd be as happy as a lark. What could be better than that? Well, according to the messages screaming at us from every direction, that is what we all must strive for. For when we achieve that kind of "success", we'll be totally fulfilled, enjoying our life to the fullest.

Wrong. We here gathered in this room, hopefully know without even a shadow of a doubt that all such thinking is foolishness, sheer insanity. Just a tempting, captivating deception. Because human wisdom divorced from God is necessarily infused with the maniacal, demented psychosis of the devil, resulting in a "wisdom" that on the surface seems rational, realistic and relevant, but peeling back even a tiny bit of its beautiful facade reveals a blackened, slithering, twisted, putrid, and perverted caricature of all that is good and of God. For God has created everything. The devil can not create anything. He can only take that which God has created and corrupt it. He takes what is perfect and beautiful and smashes it into smithereens, ugly, abhorrent. Abhorrent, that is, to those who have the mind of Christ and can see clearly, like night-vision lasers penetrating through all the smoke and mirrors.

For our current illegitimate, illegal and unconstitutional national "government" is now doing everything the Holy Bible prophesied it would in calling evil good and good evil. Men are now women and women are now men, or any combination of either, or none of the above. Do you realize you simply cannot allow your-

self to believe anything those under the influence of the devil say and do? Do you? You must surround yourself with real Christians, who'll help keep you from being deceived yourself. For our Lord warned us in Matthew 24:24, that "false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones".

If ever there was a time to realize that we can't trust the world ever, it's now. For God has already warned us repeatedly that the wisdom of the world is not wisdom at all. It leads only to total and continuous destruction in the tormenting fires of hell. There, the lies that the condemned believed and propagated during their lifetimes will come back to bite them over and over. They coveted lies, example transgenderism, tried to force others, even us, to believe and repeat them. So now, in the perfect, fair vengeance of God, those same lies come back to torment the liars themselves, surrounding them like swarming wasps and flying scorpions which never leave but unceasingly sting and stab forever and ever. Folks, hell is a place no one in their right mind would ever desire for anyone. So pray and pray and pray for unsaved loved ones and neighbors, to escape those unending flames. Even though prayers may seem to make no difference in their lives, yet they are working, and only when you yourselves are in the comforting embrace of Lord Jesus in paradise, will you be able to see just how effective your "feeble" prayers really were!

Consider how the Ten Commandments came to be. These

extremely special words of God were written, *engraved* on stone, by the very finger of God. In the presence of Moses and the Hebrews. Though they were quite a distance away, they were purposely kept close enough to both see and hear God Personally writing down the core commands of our responsibility to His Majestic Gloriousness. If you've seen Cecil B. Demille's *The Ten Commandments* where these floating flames shoot forth and burn the Hebrew letters into the stones, well, you're not that far off from the actual scene, as best as can be visualized on the cinematic screen. Through DeMille's masterful interpretation, though not everything's exactly correct, the anointing of Holy Spirit guiding his moviemaking is apparent to anyone with spiritual eyes to see.

For there are some significant divergencies in the words used in our English translations of Exodus 20:18, and elsewhere these same concepts are spoken of, and the actual, literal meanings of the original Hebrew terms. Dr. Robert Young, a Scottish Biblical scholar born in 1822, published a famous and still used, literal version of the Bible, first in 1862, with a second revision published in 1898, ten years after his death. His translation makes no attempt to "make sense of" or smooth out Biblical terms, tenses and images that seem to verge on the incomprehensible to modern readers. In so doing, he unveils many mysteries and depths of meaning in the Holy Scripture that are mostly lost in our plethora of modern translations. First let's reread Exodus 20:18 in our usual New Living Translation: "When the people

heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram's horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear". Now, excusing the archaic English wording, here is the same verse in Young's Literal Translation (YLT): "And all the people are seeing the voices, and the flames, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mount smoking; and the people see, and move, and stand afar off". So you see, there was no thunder per se, they were hearing and seeing the actual voice of God. Recall some other instances such as when Lord Jesus was teaching, and some heard a voice like an angel's while others said it "thundered" (John 12:29). But God's voice was not just heard. It was seen. And what did His voice, His words, look like? Flames of fire dancing in the air. Truly Alive! Moving about on their own, accomplishing the very purposes of God as they left His mouth, as it were. Which recalls to our minds, the Day of Pentecost. Here is the YLT of Acts 2:2-3: "and there came suddenly out of the heaven a sound as of a bearing violent breath, and it filled all the house where they were sitting, and there appeared to them divided tongues, as it were of fire; it sat also upon each one of them". Since there is one Holy Spirit, there is *one* voice, *one* breath, and only one wisdom, which comes from the Only One Wise God. Remember Proverbs 3:5, as the Good New Translation puts it: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know". Or what the world insists is true. It's not. Only God's word is truth.

