GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, July 17, 2022; Pentecost VI

Lectionary / Selected: Psalm 27; Leviticus 25:1-34; Colossians 1:21-29; Luke 10:38-42 ermon Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! LBW 328

Sermon Hymn: Anthem:

The Good News Is Fantastic!

'A biologist, an engineer, and a mathematician were sitting outside an empty room. Then, as they watched, two people went inside, and a while later, three people came out. The engineer said, "Oh, our initial count of people must have been incorrect". The biologist said, "Oh they must have procreated". The mathematician said, "Now, if one person goes back inside, the room will be completely empty!"

Isn't that mathematician's so-called logic, or lack thereof, just like so very many people today? Rather than make any attempt at all to ascertain the real reason why anything is as it is, they simply accept appearances, making up all kinds of pretenses and absurd excuses for it; regardless of the "cognitive dissonance" it creates, or the absolute insanity that results. Which is why our newest Supreme Court justice doesn't know whether she is a woman or not, or even what she is. Or that a UC Berkeley las professor testified to our Senator Josh Hawley that men can get pregnant. Well-meaning people try to give these people the benefit of the doubt, but we, as God's people, who have the mind of God growing and developing within us, which, by definition, is truth, the truth, and nothing but the truth, know that these people are verifiably, certifiably insane. While they swear we're nuts,

they are crazy lunatics. By their own making. And God has testified that because they have rejected Him, He has given them over to "unsound minds" in Romans 1:28. In short, such people can no longer see even this physical, earthly reality straight. Everything they see and sense is distorted, disfigured, disguised, and deformed. Just as the Bible says, for such people, up is down and down is up, good is bad and bad is good. Men are women and women are men. It goes on and on, without end. If it isn't clear to you by now, this world is on its last legs, quickly devolving into chaos. A chaos that will supposedly result in the "glorious" Great Reset envisioned by such dark luminaries as Klaus Schwab and his fellow wealthy and powerful elites of the World Economic Forum. The epitome of arrogance, they see themselves as so far above the masses of ordinary humanity, that it falls on them alone to determine who lives and dies, and how to manage the peoples. As a first principle, there are too many of us now, and the herd needs to be culled. That culling process has commenced with diabolical medical treatments, orchestrated food shortages, planned economic recessions, geographical relocations, and to put it bluntly, genocide in the guise of wars and safeguarding planetary health and sustainable population.

But with all the cacophony of the devil's lies and deceptions bombarding our ears and eyes from the media every waking minute, we're supposed to get discouraged, dejected, exhausted, to the point we just throw in the towel, give up and compromise with the evil around us. We start to believe the beguiling and deadly lie to "live and let live", so that "everyone will get along and be happier", the thinking promises. No. Not at all. The opposite happens, because people further distance themselves from the source of life, light and truth, Who is God Almighty in Christ Jesus their Creator, Sustainer and Savior. And those who've insisted they just want to live in peace then reveal themselves to be anything but peaceful, as they're now screaming at the tops of their lungs, utilizing every lever of power and influence they have, demanding complete and total obedience to the march toward their utopia, a paradise on earth blessed by the complete absence of anything having to do with God and His Word: pro-abortionists!

But for us, God's people, saved from this world by the Supreme Lord Jesus' saving grace and supreme sacrifice, we know better. Psalm 27 is my number one psalm. Just savor and take hold of even just the first three verses: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident." St. Patrick declared, "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, ..." Those

divine promises we can bank on. Forever! More solid than all the gold in the universe!!

But we simply can not allow ourselves to be "distracted" by all the concerns and "responsibilities" the world demands of us. Recall the dinner party at Martha, Mary and Lazarus' house. Sure, everyone needed to eat, and dinner was not going to cook itself, but Lord Jesus had begun a time of intense teaching to the guests. Mary noted that the Lord's words were priceless. She would not miss a single one. Martha was "distracted" with the food. We can eat anytime. We don't get to hear the Lord's Own words like video on demand. When He speaks, it's our responsibility to stand up and pay attention. For His words are always necessarily loaded chock full with blessings. Love and life are their very essence. For that is simply Who He is.

When our Lord Jesus, at just the perfect time, came to earth to sacrifice Himself that we His people might live and not die, don't forget we weren't the only reason He came. For the corruption that had infected the human race through Adam's sin, had not affected only us, but all of the physical, earthly universe that God had made us to have dominion over, that we were made to govern, to administer, on God's behalf. For the cancerous corruption that had infected Adam hadn't begun with him. The serpent, indwelt by the devil himself, was already corrupted, and he was just spreading the deadly plague to Adam and the whole human race and the recreated earth all over again. For the corruption of pride

that the Bible tells us had first sprouted in satan's heart had already infected a third of the angels in heaven. The angels were our predecessors, but many of them followed the lead of satan and sinned. And the angels then warred with each other. Michael and the good angels defeated satan and expelled them from the third heaven, God's very throne room, relegating them to the second and first heavens which are our earth and the physical universe as vast and beyond as we can currently measure with our newest James Webb telescope. So our Lord came not just to save us, but to save our earth, and the entire universe. To restore it to its pristine and holy beginnings, with us again administrators, assisted by our elders, God's loyal angels, with whom we will live in eternal fellowship in heaven. For the Good News of the Gospel is far more expansive and powerful and beyond us than we ever imagined. His Gospel is truly fantastic, for not only us, but the entirely of creation, the universe, the multiverse, absolutely everything that exists will be restored as Christ's sacrifice to revive perfect justice continues to ripple through all of time and space!

God designed our life and governance on earth; not the world's corrupted system designed by devils. Even as God set up the new, restored governing order to be initiated through the Jews, and then through the one new man, the saved Jews and Christians together, we've failed, egregiously. Leviticus 25 is perhaps the most salient example. Not only were we to rest on the seventh day, but the land itself was to rest every seventh year.

And then after seven cycles of the seven years, the 50th year was to be the year of jubilee. A year of great rejoicing, everything was restored back to whom it had originally belonged. "Belonged" is not entirely accurate here, because the land and everything else always and forever belongs to God, the One Who created it. We are just given "leases" to it by God, the Owner. But those leases were always designed to be perpetual. So even if lands had to be sold to pay debts, etc., on the year of jubilee, they were to be returned to their original "keepers". Because we humans can never actually own anything, as everything is God's and it's His right to determine who administers and lives on it. There seems to be no record that Israel ever followed through on this part of God's law. And therefore the very land itself suffered. Jeremiah records that the first exile of the people to Babylon lasted 70 years because the land had been deprived of its sabbath years 70 times, meaning that for 490 years, the people had ignored this command. But that was not the end of their disobedience. The land was given rest until 1948 when the State of Israel was reborn, after nearly 2,000 years! This, too, is just a part of the fantastic-ness of the Good News of Christ Jesus! For from the greatest, huge vastness of the multiverse, to the tiniest minutia of each of our individual lives, the Good News applies. Nothing, absolutely nothing escapes God's will. So, folks, as Psalm 27's last verse declares, don't fret, don't sweat it. Instead "Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord".

