GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, **September 11, 2022**; Pentecost XIV Lectionary / Selected: Psalm 119:169-176; Ecclesiastes 6; 1 Timothy 3-4; Luke 15:1-10 Sermon Hymn: *The Clouds of Judgement Gather* LBW 322 Anthem:

## The End Times Apostasy

'There was a painter named Scott who was very interested in turning a profit, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one their biggest buildings. Scott put in a bid and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding, setting up the planks, and buying the paint, and yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine. While Scott was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder; the sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Scott clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by puddles of the thinned and useless paint. Scott was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke. "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Yes, I know this joke was just a bit lame. But, its very lameness makes a point. Truly, us "moderns" simply do not take sin seriously enough. And not only that, but the very fact that we can

understand the connection between a pair of words to another pair of words, that is, "repaint" and "repent", and "thin" and "sin", illustrates in its own way, how very easy it is for the meanings of truly weighty matters to slip, slide, and morph into something totally different. And even easier when the whole process is goaded along by an array of evil, unclean spirits whispering into the ears of otherwise unsuspecting masses of low-information people.

Take, for example, California now pushing legislation that guarantees the right to "abort" a baby up to 28 days after birth! Yes, in California any "birthing person" can give birth to a baby, and if, during the first month's "trial" period, decides they don't like that baby, then within the first 28-days, they can simply "return" it, abort it, as if it had never been! How utterly convenient!! What a blessing? Only if you're a demon could you not react to that proposed bill as anything but pure evil, for it legalizes infanticide. That is the killing of infants. But how does this California legislation read? Of course, they, just like the demons are telling them to, are twisting the meanings of words to achieve their desired result. Calling this "perinatal" abortion, they're conveniently forgetting that perinatal refers to the period from about five months before birth to one month after birth. Using a term that not many are familiar with is an attempt to obscure the plain fact that this law would authorize baby killing. Infanticide. Plain and simple. Murder, in the first degree. And all perfectly legal!

In his first fatherly letter to his spiritual son in the faith Timo-

thy, the Apostle Paul gives extensive pointers and instructions on church leadership and administration. In 4:1-3, he wrote, "Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods". Clearly this list is not meant to be comprehensive, but only cite a few glaring examples. But these Paul mentions are guite evident in our day, providing ever-more evidence that we are truly living in the "last times". The amount of lying and hypocrisy is such that a new term has been coined for the days we're living in—"gaslighting". Deriving from the 1944 movie "Gaslight" "in which a husband uses trickery to convince his wife that she is mentally unwell so he can steal from her", the new term "gaslighting" is "used to describe a person (a 'gaslighter') who presents a false narrative to another group or person, thereby leading them to doubt their perceptions and become misled, disoriented or distressed. Oftentimes this is for the gaslighter's own benefit" (Wikipedia). Psychology Today defines it: "Gaslighting is an insidious form of manipulation and psychological control. Victims of gaslighting are deliberately and systematically fed false information that leads them to question what they know to be true, often about themselves. They may end up doubting their memory, their perception, and even their Over time, a gaslighter's manipulations can grow more sanity.

complex and potent, making it increasingly difficult for the victim to see the truth". Though the term has been commonly used only since the mid 2010s, it's patently obvious that America has been subjected to a well-organized and carefully-planned program of gaslighting since the 1950s and even before. COVID-19 anyone?

The massive, successful inroads this gaslighting program has made on the American citizenry demand the conclusion that mere human beings, no matter how brilliant and numerous, could never by themselves orchestrate such interlocking and massive schemes requiring decades, even centuries, to complete. We absolutely have been the subjects of demonic, psychological and biological manipulation. How else can we explain the wholesale rejection and repudiation of God and our Godly heritage by the three Supreme Court decisions in 1962, 1963 and 1972 that forbade Christian prayer in schools, then the Holy Bible, and then legalized child sacrifice by abortion for any reason. 1980 banned the Ten Commandments. More recently in 2015, homosexual "marriages" were made equal, even preferred to God's ordained marriage of heterosexual monogamy. How about boys becoming girls and vice versa? Has this country, indeed much of the world, been hoodwinked, gaslighted, or not?

The apostasy is plain as day. If God said it, if He commanded it, if He forbade it, the opposite is now celebrated by large groups of our countrymen. And those groups have taken in the majority of the people in this country who have traditionally identi-

fied themselves as Christians! For so-called believers to swallow, hook, line and sinker, the lies, deceptions, and distortions of the devil such that they end up opposing the very things of God is the very definition of apostasy. And what did Paul mention first? He said that "they will say it is wrong to be married". Next he mentioned, they will say it is "wrong to eat certain foods". You have heard that we're not supposed to eat meat any more because raising livestock consumes too much of our planet's limited resources while at the same time contributing dangerously to our planet's changing climate. Because, you know, cows release too much gas and belch up exorbitant and ghastly amounts of methane gas, which is far worse than even carbon dioxide in throwing our planet's climate totally out of whack. So, we must learn to eat only bugs and plants, to save the planet and ourselves. Otherwise, we are all doomed to die. You did realize that, right, that we're all going to die, horrible and painful deaths, unless we hand over all our money to the wonderful people of the World Economic Forum, the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and our socialistic national and local governments, who are the only people who truly know what needs to be done to save us all.

Turns out, as many others, and most recently Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Cahn's latest book *The Return of the Gods*, plainly reveals, the same fallen angels and the unclean, evil spirits of their incorporeal offspring are still around as they were when our Lord Jesus first came to earth. And they're wreaking the same

havoc they did before Christ defeated them on the cross and empowered His Church to push them back. Well, as can be seen in just America alone, the Church is but a shell of what it used to be. As more and more of the Church has become apostate, the greater and greater the ungodly influence of these spirits has become. More and more of our fellow Americans have been taken in by them, been "gaslighted", and now we find ourselves more divided and disunited than at any time since the Civil War. But not just us. This contagion has spread to all the world.

Consider new King Charles III. Within the first 24 hours of Queen Elizabeth's passing, among other "formalities", he swore "an oath before the Privy Council in St. James's Palace to maintain the Church of Scotland, according to the Act of Union of 1707". He "must declare to Parliament on the first day of its session following the accession, or at the coronation, whichever is first, that he is a faithful Protestant. The oath is mandated by the Accession Declaration Act of 1910". "He must be in communion with the Church of England, a flexible rule which allowed King George I and King George II to reign even though they were How many of those requirements do you think Lutherans". Charles actually meets, in reality? Do those words mean anything? We must pray that not only here in America, but in Britain and elsewhere, that the fear of God in Christ falls upon the world again in the greatest revival there will ever be. For we're in the End Times. Christ is coming soon, and we've got to be ready!

