GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, **April 28, 2024**; Pascha V Lectionary / Selected: Psalm 150; Acts 18:1-4, 18-28; I John 4; John 15:1-8

Sermon Hymn: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!
Anthem:

LBW 131

## When Hate Becomes a Virtue

'A pious but cranky old woman was put out because her neighbors had not invited her to a picnic. On the morning of the picnic one of the neighbors finally called her to ask her to go along. "It's too late", snapped the woman at the caller; "I've already prayed for rain".' Now if this old, praying woman was truly pious, she'd know that praying for rain was not a loving thing, not the Christian thing to do. Did not our Lord command us to "love our enemies"? And we're seeing just so much love these days, all around us! Right? College campuses across the fruited plains are filled with students expressing their love for God, for His Chosen People, the Jews, and for the hostages still captive in Gaza.

Well, actually there are a few such places, most notably Liberty University this past Wednesday, which held a public gathering in which tens of thousands of students and the public participated in worshipping God and praying for Israel. As reported by Fox News on Thursday, 'The private Christian university located in Lynchburg, Virginia, held a massive gathering on the campus' Academic Lawn Wednesday evening that went widely unnoticed as there were no arrests, no anti-Israeli or anti-Jewish sentiments. Instead, the massive crowd joined together to pray, worship and read the Bible. "While so many campuses are erupting in anger,

hatred and violence; it is refreshing to see the students at Liberty University reflecting the love of Christ as we are commanded to do by Scripture", Jonathan Falwell, the university chancellor and pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, who delivered a sermon at Wednesday's gathering, told Fox News Digital. "Jesus clearly tells us to love, and it is so telling that in higher education today, it seems as if some of the only places where love is being displayed are from the campuses of Christian universities like Liberty University". "There is no greater joy than seeing God's people delight in His truth", a Liberty University spokesperson told Fox News Digital. "While we are all tragically witnessing the state of college campuses erupting in protest across the country, speaking with the language of hatred and promoting a wicked ideology that favors the annihilation of an entire race of people, by contrast, thousands of Liberty students gathered last night on our academic lawn for the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ, Scripture reading, preaching, and prayer. Liberty students are actively seeking the presence of God".'

Seeking the presence of God. That's it. That's the key. That's the answer and solution to absolutely everything. If only the throngs of young people at Columbia, USC, University of Texas at Austin, Washington University, etc., knew that all they need to do is to seek Jesus Christ. They would come to know real peace, real joy, real happiness and satisfaction. In short, salvation from all the hate in this world. But they don't know. And

they've been diligently taught to vehemently reject any and everything that even smells of God, His People, both Jews and Christians, the Bible, the true church. In so doing, they close themselves off from anything that would give their lives true meaning. And so, as humans are hardwired to seek the truth and companionship, they turn to what the evil in this world continuously screams at them is what they need—fake love. This fake love is nothing but a prepackaged pack of lies, all beautifully wrapped but which, beyond a fleeting, momentary pleasure, leaves in its wake nothing but emptiness, regret and disappointment. Since thev know of nothing else and no other way, they keep returning to the same putrid fountain of falsehoods to assuage the pain of the bleeding, gaping wounds in their souls. But wind up with only bigger, deeper wounds. And they don't know why. Most are clueless as to the why of anything. And so they continually turn to anything and anyone who purports to offer them meaning, a cause, something worthwhile for which they can devote their lives.

Witness now the hordes on the secular, most formerly Christian, campuses of universities, elite and common alike. These students think they are doing something worthwhile. Whatever common sense they might have had, might have learned from their parents, has been educated out of them. Now, unable to rationally think for themselves, they'll believe anything those supposedly on their side tell them. For some, it's even worse. A reporter last week asked a demonstrator at Columbia why she was

there, what she was protesting. With a deer-in-the-headlights stare, she had to turn to her friend to ask why they were there! And even she couldn't properly articulate the meaning of the slogans they were shouting. Talk about mere children in adult's bodies. A person on X responded, "Raise the voting age to 40, now!" I wonder if even at 40 whether these adult children will have actually learned much about real life in the additional 20 some years. Quite possibly many of them will have learned how to turn protesting into profit. Turns out, and we shouldn't be surprised at this at all, the ringleaders of these huge, illegal "gatherings" are paid op-Seems they're being paid \$2000+ to over \$3000 a month to foment disorder, discord, and disunity in American society at large, all courtesy of the billions of George Soros, and other evil liberal, elitist, anarchist globalists. The goal? Tear down all Judeo-Christian foundations of America so that it can be remade into a socialist, meaning communist, paradise on earth. Well, that explains why we see so very many of the same faces who were Antifa anarchists several years ago, who then became Black Lives Matter marchers, and now pro-Palestinian Arab, pro-genocide of Israel, "death to America" leaders of lemmings.

To set the record straight, to counteract their seemingly unceasing avalanche of lies spewing forth from the news reports coming from these campuses, including here in St. Louis, Israel is not an apartheid state. Israel is not trying to exterminate the people who live in Gaza. The Gazans are also victims, but victims of

Hamas, Iran, and the demonic, hellish religion of Islam. As one kind-hearted Israeli woman explained, she had been one of many who had lived in the many kibbutzim bordering Gaza. They had made friends with many Gazans, driving them places, giving them gifts, food, helping them with baby-sitting, chores, taking them to doctor's visits, hospitals, and paying for them. They thought these people had become friends. But it was these same people who followed after the Hamas terrorists to loot, torture and kill many who'd survived the first wave of attacks. This woman stated that they always thought that people are people, who just want to live in peace, be happy, raise their families, and not harm each other. "We were wrong" she said, sharing that those we thought were friends came to kill us. They may be human beings, but they do not share our values, our humanity, our virtues at all.

It was often stated in the days immediately following the October 7th massacre that the face of pure evil had been revealed. But how soon was it forgotten. The same evil that indwelt and still indwells Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran's ayatollahs, the Gazans and so-called Palestinians who follow Islam, is and has been pulling the strings of Soros and the "activists" on so many colleges today. And not just there, but throughout our society. When a female Supreme Court justice, a woman, can not define what a woman is, when she is one, is this not time to cry out to God unceasingly for His intervention? Or, are we at the point where, like the old "pious" woman in the joke who snapped back at the caller, "It's too

late"? No, it's not too late. But time is running out!

This year is a presidential election year. Remember what happened last time, in 2020? A pandemic of sorts, immensely exacerbated by power-hungry governments and bureaucrats imposing unnecessary lockdowns, mandating untested medical procedures, outlawing proven cures and treatments, which all supposedly "necessitated" extraordinarily insecure voting procedures, which were used to steal that election. It's interesting to see how much the mainstream media loves to use the terms "debunked" and similar when talking about the 2020 elections. That it was stolen is as plain as the nose on anyone's face, but the media refuses to believe it because they can't live with the fact that it could possibly be true. The fact that they're ultimately not in control of their own destinies is anathema to them, and, without any future repentance, it will guarantee their cozy, warm, pit in hell.

John spoke of antichrists, and the extreme need for us true believers to be able to tell the difference between those who really follow the Lord, and the imposters, the pretenders, the deceived and the deceivers. Rapper Kanye West has just launched a new platform for pornography. Calling himself the god of himself, it's clear that he was never really saved when he released his Christian album just a few years ago. Those who truly know the love of God will not peddle a counterfeit love that guarantees heartache. We who love each other with the love of God are truly God's children. God is love and His love is the best there is. So show it!

