

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Abbreviations ix

Introduction: Re-enchantment, Postsecularity,
and the Return of Transcendence in Western Culture 3

1 *The Scarlet Letter*: Puritan Imagination and the Kerygmatic Power
of Sin 33

2 Henry James's *The Europeans*: Secularity and the Descent
of the Word 53

3 Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*: Modernism and the Death
of the Word 79

4 Immanent Christianity in *The Grapes of Wrath* 98

5 "In the Name of the Lost Father": Postsecular Mysticism
in *On the Road* 122

6 "I Will Call Them My People": Toni Morrison's Postsecular Gospel
of Self and Community 145

Conclusion: Kerygma and the Promises of Postsecular Imagination
in Postmodern Times 165

Notes 171

Bibliography 209

Index 221