PT 550
Homiletics I: Proclaiming the Word of God
Trinity School for Ministry/North American Lutheran Seminary
Fall 2020

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Catalog Course Description: This course introduces students to the basic skills necessary to
move from biblical text to homiletic proclamation within a Eucharistic Rite. Emphases will be on
basic writing skills and oral delivery. Students will have multiple opportunities to preach and
receive feedback within the classroom setting.

Relation to Curriculum: This is a required course that satisfies the requirements for all
students in the M.Div. program. This course may also be taken as an elective by any M.A.
student. STM students will contract with the instructor for additional assignments. A basic
course in biblical exegesis is a pre-requisite for all students in the M.Div. program. M.A.
students may receive a waiver of the pre-requisite with permission from the instructor.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the art and craft of biblical
preaching within the Western Rite, particularly within Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian
expressions the Divine Liturgy. Students will become familiar with 20th-21st century homiletic
theories and their doctrinal origins as they begin to design and deliver sermons to contemporary
Christian assemblies. Students will work with the interplay of orality and literacy as they acquire
competencies in addressing the lives of Christians in this day. By the completion of the course,
students should be able to grasp the basics of the classic law/gospel dialectic and use it as part for
the shaping of their preaching from the Holy Scriptures. Preaching texts will be selected from the
Revised Common Lectionary in order that students have opportunity to prepare for future
liturgical leadership.

Learning Outcomes: In keeping with Trinity School for Ministry’s and the NALS Mission and
Vision Statements and the NALC Standards for Ministry, upon completing of the course,
students will:

1. Discover that the Word of God is reading them, as well as the assembly, as it is being
proclaimed;

2. Understand that theology is meant for proclamation, and that all that they learn in exegetical,
historical, confessional, systematic, and pastoral disciplines is of value to them as preachers as it
shapes their understandings of the Holy Scriptures and of the purposes of preaching;

3. Know that pastoral care is a function of preaching, and that reading the context in which
proclamation occurs is crucial to the communication of both law and gospel;
4. Experience the exegetical insights that come from praying the biblical texts as part of homiletic preparation;

5. That preaching as a performative doxological eucharistic exegesis of the Word of God within the Divine Liturgy is a liturgical act intended to lead the assembly to thanksgiving and praise;

6. That congruency of words and deeds are essential in the character of a Christian preacher;

7. And have the basic homiletic skills to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a congregational setting.

Course Requirements:
1. Reading for Class Discussion (10pts): Students will come to the task of preaching having heard specific preachers with varying hermeneutics and styles. The assigned readings present a greater historical sweep, so that students may begin to see the art and craft of preaching beyond the limits of their prior experience. Readings will also aid in formal sermon construction and in practical guidance for delivery. Be prepared to engage in discussions on the assigned materials.

2. Homiletic Writing and Aural/Oral Participation: Class sessions will include time for short assignments aimed at increasing skill in homiletic writing and speaking. Learning the differences between linear and aggregative ways of communication, between expositional and evocative writing, and between a recitation of data and incarnational preaching is an art that is developed over time. These short exercises will become building blocks for a lively homiletic that is biblically and doctrinally sound as well as capable of moving the heart.

3. Student Presentation: (10 pts.): Each student will give a 10-15 minute oral presentation covering two chapter sin Stackhouse and Crisp. Be prepared to present each author’s content and potential value for homiletic preparation, as well as any critique or praise of the authors’ hermeneutics. The goals of this assignment are to be able to analyze, contrast, and critique two authors and to orally communicate what is important in these chapters with your peers in such a way that they can’t wait to read your assigned chapters (in addition to their own).

4. Sermon Preparation and Delivery (80 pts.): This is the heart of our work together. Four sermon manuscripts, along with exegetical notes and analyses, will be required of all students. These sermons will be preached and evaluated in class. Preaching texts from both the Old and New Testaments will be assigned from the current lectionary cycle and will be a mix of Festival Days and Ordinary Time. In the course of the semester each student will preach from 1 Old Testament text (an appointed First Reading or Psalm), 1 Epistle, and 2 Gospel texts.

Grading Scale: The school’s grade scale is as follows: A = 100-95; A- = 94-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83; B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70; D = below 70; F = below 60.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance and participation are a central part of this course. Students who must miss a class period need to consult with me in advance. If a student has more than one unexcused absence from class, he/she will receive a penalty of three points per additional unexcused absence on his/her final grade.
**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a violation of an author’s/artist’s intellectual property rights and is a serious offense. Please see the TSM Academic Catalog for a full explanation of Trinity’s plagiarism guidelines and note, as stated there, that every student is expected to be fully aware of the guidelines. A student who plagiarizes will automatically receive a failing grade on the assignment and risks failing the course.

**Incompletes:** Incompletes are not normally given and are given only in the most serious of cases. In order to request an incomplete, student must obtain the necessary form online and bring to the professor who will list the specific assignments to be completed with due dates. The due date cannot be beyond six weeks from the last day of class. The form will be submitted to the Academic Dean for final approval.

**ATS:** As per The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) requirements, several samples of student work may be randomly selected and used as a class artifact as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs. Students’ names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.

**Required Texts:**


LaRue, Bradshaw, and TBA readings will be posted in Google Classroom.

**Recommended Texts:**


Class Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>Course Overview; Why Do We Preach: Reflections on Romans 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>20/21C Homiletic Theories (Traditional, Kerygmatic, Transformational, and Conversational)</td>
<td>Long, 1-68</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Public Reading of Scripture; Intro to the Revised Common Lectionary and Role of Preaching in the <em>Ordo</em></td>
<td>Lowry, 5-25</td>
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<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Biblical Exegesis for Preaching; The Incarnational Language of Preaching</td>
<td>Lowry, 26-73</td>
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<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Student Presentations on Stackhouse and Crisp; A Repertoire of Sermon Forms</td>
<td>Stackhouse and Crisp</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Exegeting the Congregation for Preaching; The Use of Multiple Intelligences in Preaching</td>
<td>Long, 69-98; LaRue, “How Effective Black Preachers Prepare their Sermons”</td>
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<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>NO CLASS- READING WEEK</td>
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<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Student Preaching I</td>
<td>Lowry 76-95; Long, 99-148; Bradshaw, “Preaching in the Black Church”</td>
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<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Praying the Scriptures; Reading, Writing, and Speaking for the Ear</td>
<td>Childers, 9-56 (57-98)</td>
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<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Student Preaching II; Lecture: TBA</td>
<td>TBA; Lischer, 1-46</td>
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<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Law and Gospel: A Resurrection Hermeneutic; Imagination and Narrative</td>
<td>Lischer, 48-62 (63-92)</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Student Preaching III</td>
<td>Long, 149-172</td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Lecture: TBA</td>
<td>TBA; Long, 173-197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>Student Preaching IV</td>
<td>Long, 198-244</td>
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