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# PR 740 Preaching for Special Occasions

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PR740: Preaching for Special Occasions

Spring, 2001

Instructor: J. Ellsworth Kalas

Textbooks:

James F. Kay, Seasons of Grace

Long and McCarter, Preaching In and Out of Season

Readings from Elizabeth Achtemeier, Preaching as Theology and Art

(on reserve): Please read the introductory material preceding the sermons on Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, and Pentecost, and the sermon for each season.

Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance in class sessions, and involvement in discussion and critiquing.

2. Reading of assigned materials.

3. Oral:

1) 4 - 5 minute wedding homily, delivered in class, without manuscript or notes.

2) 10 - 11 minute talk for a secular group, in class.

Specifics of the talk will be assigned later.

4. Written: 2 - 3 page review of Seasons of Grace. I want your interacting with the material, rather than your summary of what the book is about. Due Feb. 27.

5. Written: 4 page paper, evaluating three special day sermons, from any of the following books: Achtemeier, Buttrick, MacLennan, Rees, Sangster, and 20 Centuries of Great Preaching. I prefer that you choose three different preachers.

In your paper, consider especially these questions:

-- Did the sermon do justice to the occasion (that is, the special day or season), revealing its importance and its spiritual significance?

-- Would this sermon appeal to an occasional church-goer, the kind of person who might attend only on Easter, Christmas, or Mother's Day?

-- Did the sermon interest and influence or inspire you?

Due March 27.

6. Written: 4 - 6 page paper developing either a Lenten or an Advent sermon series. In your paper, please include, for each sermon:

-- a title

-- Scripture lesson

-- a brief summary of your idea, and how you would expect to develop it in the sermon.

If an Advent series, plan on four sermons; if a Lenten series, seven, including Easter. Due May 3.

Your grade will be determined, roughly, on this scale:

15% Wedding homily

20% Secular group talk

15% Report on Kay book

20% Special day sermon evaluations

25% Lenten/Advent series

5% Class attendance and participation

## Assigned Reading List:

Achtemeier, Elizabeth, Preaching as Theology and Art

Advent: "Of Repentance and Captivity"

Epiphany: "On Living in Reality"

Lent: "The Journey—the Choice"

Eastertide: "Dealing with the Final Foe"

Pentecost: "The Easy Yoke"

Buttrick, George, Sermons Preached in a University Church

Christmas: "The Name of the Nameless"

Easter: "Our Times and the Resurrection"

Pentecost: "Babel and Pentecost"

MacLennan, David, No Coward Soul

Easter: "The Divine Springtime"

Rees, Paul S., If God Be for Us

Thanksgiving: "A Thanksgiving Classic"

Christmas: "The Christmas Purpose"

Sangster, William E., Sangster's Special Day Sermons

20 Centuries of Great Preaching

Vol. 2: Martin Luther

Pentecost: "Whitsunday"

Vol. 11: Samuel Shoemaker

Maundy Thursday: "Maundy Thursday Night"

Easter: "The Christ of the Resurrection"

Vol. 11: James S. Stewart

Easter: "The Power of His Resurrection"