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”