

MN 235E TOPICS IN PREACHING - FUNERAL PROCLAMATION

Instructor: The Rev. Victoria Larson

Semester and Year: Late Summer Session 2022 July 11 to August 15 (six weeks) Online/Asynchronous
(Can be registered for as either separately or part of Fall 2022)

Elective. Open to all. Registration limited to 12.

One semester hour, letter grade or credit/no-credit (pass/fail)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the Christian funeral as an occasion for the critical and countercultural proclamation of the hope we have in Christ's death and resurrection. It explores the funeral liturgy as a partner in the work of proclamation; recognizes the importance of pastoral care for the grieving; and invites students to examine their own understandings of and experiences with death, dying, and Christian hope. This work culminates in a funeral sermon preached by the student.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To gain an introduction to foundational tenets of preaching in general and to practice the crafting of a funeral sermon. (Practice of biblical and theological wisdom; practice of being rooted in the Gospel)
- 2) To recognize the particularity of Christian claims about death vis a vis North American culture and global practices. (Practice of immersion in context; practice of engagement with cross-cultural and global dimensions)
- 3) To explore the theology of the Christian funeral and identify its expression in preaching, worship, and pastoral care. (Practice of *missio dei* in Word and sacrament; practice of pastoral concern.)
- 4) To gain and engage with practical tools that aid in funeral planning and sermon preparation. (Practice of evangelical listening and speaking the faith to others.)

PROCEDURE:

This course meets online only for six weeks. The instructor will post weekly videos and prompts for discussion.

EVALUATION:

- 1) Weekly engagement in online forum demonstrated by informed and thoughtful responses to prompts.
- 2) A one-page reflection on an additional course text, chosen by the student from the bibliography.
- 3) An exegesis of chosen preaching texts for the final project.
- 4) The final project: a video of the student preaching a funeral homily reflecting integration of the intensive's work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: (=Required)**

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. 2006.

**Long, Thomas. *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral*. 2009.

**Troeger, Thomas and Nora Tubbs Tisdale. *A Sermon Workbook: Exercises in the Art and Craft of Preaching*. 2013.

Bregman, Lucy. *Preaching Death: The Transformation of Christian Funeral Sermons*. 2020.

Brooks, Jeremy. *Heaven's Morning Breaks: Sensitive and Practical Reflections on Funeral Practice*. 2013.

Craddock, Fred B., Dale Goldsmith, and Joy V. Goldsmith. *Speaking of Dying: Recovering the Church's Voice in the Face of Death*. 2012.

Doughty, Caitlin. *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*. 2014.

Doughty, Caitlin. *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death*. 2017.

Gawande, Atul. *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. 2014.

Hoffacker, Charles. *A Matter of Life and Death: Preaching at Funerals*. 2003.

Huntley, Theresa M. *Helping Children Grieve: When Someone They Love Dies*. 1991.

Long, Thomas. *What Happens When We Die? A Little Book of Guidance*. 2017.

McDuff, Mallory. *Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of our Lives*. 2021.

Neumann, Ann. *The Good Death: an Exploration of Dying in America*. 2016.

Powery, Luke. *Dem Dry Bones: Preaching, Death, and Hope*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Powery, Luke. "Haunting Echoes for Homiletics: Why Spirituals Matter for Preaching." *Homiletics*. 2012.

Reinis, Austra. *Reforming the Art of Dying: The ars moriendi in the German Reformation (1519-1529)*. 2016.

Stevens, Becca. *Funeral for a Stranger: Thoughts on Life and Love*. 2009.

Thiselton, Anthony C. *Life after Death: A New Approach to the Last Things*. 2011.

Wherry, Peter M. *Preaching Funerals in the Black Church: Bringing Perspective to the Pain*. 2013.