



Preface

“Come, share the Spirit, God has called us to ventures in the life of faith,
to bring good tidings to the needy, to tell of victory over death.
Christ speaks and all of life is new; God’s word is pure and it is true.”

(“Come, share the Spirit,” ACS 1045. Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, alt. © 1987 Augsburg Fortress)

Welcome to the 2027 edition of *Sundays and Seasons: Preaching!* It is an honor and joy to present this resource to you. We hope and pray that it will provide real, tangible support for your preaching task in year B of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).

In the first edition of *Preaching* published nearly 15 years ago, Benjamin Stewart beautifully outlined our goal for this resource: “We believe it is time to lift up a new vision for preaching in our assemblies. The vision emerges within the strong tradition of law and gospel preaching. It sees promise in preaching as a liturgical act—as drawing on the experience of worship and inviting worshipers deeper into the mysteries of our common prayer.” As we proclaim in *The Use of the Means of Grace, Principles for Worship, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (the primary worship book of the ELCA and the ELCIC), the sermon is not a discrete event, but something woven into the whole of the day, arising from and commenting on all that precedes and follows: the liturgy, the communion meal, the scripture readings, the church-year day, the day in the civic calendar, and the current context of those gathered for worship.

We begin, therefore, by presenting a brief introduction to the day and to the texts. With these, we list the day’s propers: the psalm response to the first reading, the gospel acclamation, and the prayer of the day. We also include Gail Ramshaw’s

notes for each week: Readings in the Bible, describing the circumstances in which these texts were written; Readings on This Day, connecting the texts to the day in the church year and the context for preaching on this day, in this place; Images in the Readings; and Connections with the Liturgy.

But you’ll find the heart of this resource in two essays for each day: From a Scholar and From a Preacher. While these are each as unique as their authors, their uniting purpose is to inspire creativity in preaching the gospel in your context. Scholars and preachers from across the church have crafted essays providing insights into the biblical texts for the day (with a focus on what would be particularly helpful to you), considering the entirety of the day’s worship, and proposing approaches for compelling sermons. Thanks to all of our writers who have shared their gifts so generously!

Our team works tirelessly to make this a vital resource for preachers in the ELCA and ELCIC and across Christ’s church.¹ The church needs your voice, and this resource is for you. Thank you for allowing us to journey with you and support you this year. May you know God’s presence, follow Christ’s call, and abide in the Spirit’s love as you proclaim the good news.

*Heather Blackstone, Hannah Hawkinson,
and Marissa Sotos, editors*

¹ *Sundays and Seasons: Preaching* is primarily produced with an eye toward Lutheran worship. However, it is built around the Revised Common Lectionary and can be useful to preachers in many Protestant congregations.