

“Preaching Helps”

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CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

Each issue of *CURRENTS* carries a section of **PREACHING HELPS**, approximately 16 pages long, in which gifted preachers share their insights and reflections on the assigned readings from the Revised Common Lectionary in these two ways:

ENGAGING THE TEXTS: These are brief exegetical comments on one or more of the readings, designed to offer something different from what readers find in the usual commentaries, something aimed at preaching. When appropriate, the author might focus attention on a motif running through all three readings. Sometimes the author deals with only one of the readings for the day, but readers appreciate brief comments on all three readings. Authors wrestle with the biblical texts, providing readers with raw material for their own study and reflection on the texts. If the original languages are used in an entry, the author needs to transliterate.

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS: These may be brief meditations on the readings or on some theme in them. The author might choose to mull over the way one plans to preach on the readings, describing issues that seize one preacher's imagination. Or one might describe images in the readings and talk about ways of shaping the sermon through those images. What piece of poetry comes to mind? What movie or bestseller? What current issue? But especially, what is the good news here? What excites you as you think about preaching on these readings?

Some writers prefer to study and reflect on the readings and then, instead of writing two brief sections for each Sunday, integrate their material in a seamless whole. What readers appreciate is not a finished sermon but reflections of personal wrestling with the readings.

SPECIFICATIONS: Both **ENGAGING THE TEXTS** and **PASTORAL REFLECTIONS** are brief. Each of these sections is about 450 words for a total of 900 words for each Sunday or festival.

FORMAT: Place at the beginning of each Sunday or festival:

Liturgical Calendar Day
Date

Old Testament Reading
Psalm
Epistle
Gospel

Be certain to provide complete citations for all quotations or they cannot be used. Submit your contribution as an attachment to an email. Please send to lundblad@uts.columbia.edu. Also, kindly include a few lines of biography to introduce you to our readers.

REMUNERATION: Unfortunately none of the editors or contributors receives any financial compensation or honorarium. The only “pay” we can offer contributors is the satisfaction of knowing that your work is used and appreciated by those who read “Preaching Helps” as they prepare to preach the **GOOD NEWS** week after week.

Barbara Lundblad
Editor, “Preaching Helps”