

# Homiletics and Public Speech

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## Academic credits

4 KP (6 ECTS)

## Prerequisites

None

## Approved by

Methodological Commission (August, 2022)

## Course Authors and Lecturers

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## Content

Students are presented with the concept of homiletics and different preaching traditions; various preaching models and methods are offered to provide the basis for preaching practices. The theological foundations of homily, based on scripture and confessions are explained. Attention is paid to both homily content and form. As part of the course, students learn the steps needed to prepare a homily and acquire skills in their appropriate delivery. The technique and correct pronunciation of sound, breathing and clear and resonant speech is learned, the ability to speak publicly, overcome excitement, and the ability to express the nature of the message. The course takes the form of lectures and practice. In the interim test, the student presents a reading from Scripture.

## Aims

- Provide theoretical insight into homiletic discipline and create an understanding of the homiletic ministry of the Church.
- Help students to prepare for the delivery of the Scriptures, both in substance and in technical terms, by deliberately and purposefully practicing voice and enunciation, and by using a variety of means of content discovery.

## Learning Outcomes

### ***Knowledge***

*The students will know:*

- the meaning of the concept of Homiletics and Homily;
- basic communication models and their preconditions;

### ***Assessment***

Practical task  
Intermediate test

- basic principles of Lutheran homilies; Final test
- how to prepare for a sermon, a reading of scripture or other public speech;
- how to overcome the excitement before speaking.

***Skills***

*The students will be able to:*

- create an audience-relevant sermon; Practical task
- apply the pool of theological knowledge acquired in studies to preaching; Intermediate test
- to speak in such a way as to be audible and comprehensible; Final test
- place logical emphasis in the speech, revealing the nature of the message.
- combine the simplicity and expression of speech;
- read the liturgical readings clearly and understandably.

***Competencies***

*The students will be able to:*

- practice preaching as part of the Church's ministry; Intermediate test
- to pursue preaching in the context of pastoral and mission ministry; Final test
- to address the congregation in a clear, audible and inspired manner, bearing the message of the gospel.

**FULL-TIME STUDIES**

**Lesson plan**

| <i>Subject</i>  | <i>Academic hours<br/>(45 min)</i> |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 The concept of Homiletics and its historical development  | 4                                  |
| 2 Structure of the sermon   | 8                                  |
| 3 Types of sermons  | 6                                  |
| 4 Basic principles of Lutheran hermeneutics   | 8                                  |
| 5 Preparation of the sermon   | 12                                 |
| 6 Special occasions   | 4                                  |
| 7 Delivering a sermon   | 6                                  |
| 8 <i>Come up straight, open your mouth and go away as soon as possible.</i><br>Posture and breath, their connection and control. Exercise in the release of facial, shoulder and hand muscles. Tightening of the diaphragm.<br>Breathing exercises. | 1                                  |
| 9 Enunciation. Exercises (lower jaw, lips, tongue) of the articulation apparatus.   | 1                                  |

|              |  |           |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| 10           | The voice and its tones. How to use resonators.<br>Articulation exercises and “tongue twisters.”<br>Understanding the text. A message.<br>Logical emphasis, intonation, pace, rhythm, breaks, gestures.  | 2         |
| 11           | The peculiarity of the scripture readings: “The Spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his words are upon my tongue (2Sam 23: 2); <i>the preaching of the prophets has never come from the will of man, but the people of God have spoken in the power of the Holy Spirit</i> (2Pt 1:21). | 2         |
| 12           | Why is the exegesis important.   | 1         |
| 13           | A relationship with listeners. Attitude, eye contact. How to keep the audience focused. Practical advice in preparation for public speech.   | 3         |
| 14           | Practice individual lessons  | 6         |
| <i>TOTAL</i> |  | <i>64</i> |

## Individual study plan

| Individual studies                               | Number of hours to run |
|--|------------------------|
| Homily preparation                               | 36                     |
| Preparing a sermon for special occasion          | 36                     |
| Voice and talk exercises, reading text exercises | 24                     |
| <i>TOTAL</i>                                     | <i>96</i>              |

## Assessment

|                   | Learning Outcomes |        |              | % of the final score |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|----------------------|
|                   | Knowledge         | Skills | Competencies |                      |
| Attendance        | +                 |        |              | 20                   |
| Practical task    | +                 | +      |              | 20                   |
| Intermediate test | +                 | +      | +            | 20                   |
| Final test        | +                 | +      | +            | 40                   |

## Readings

### *Mandatory Readings*

1. Gulbis, Modris K. *Praktisks ievads homiletikā*. Rīga: LU Teoloģijas fakultāte, 2004.
2. Ozols, Alberts. *Homiletika*. Rīga: Ceļš, 1996.
3. Rumba, Edgars. *Vīņpus aizspriedumiem, noliegumiem un ilūzijām*. Rīga: Klints, 82-88.lpp, 1994.
4. Pāvests Francisks. *Evanģēlija prieks*. Rīga: Kala Raksti, 2014.
5. Milēviča, Inga. *Veiksmes retorika*. Rīga: Burtene, 2019.

### *Additional Readings*

1. Lejas-Krūmiņš, Teodors. *Skatuves māksla*. Rīga, 1923.

2. Endzelīns J. *Dažādas valodas kļūdas*. Rīga, A. Gulbis, 1928.
3. Punka A. *Prasme runāt publiski*. Rīga, Rūķis, 1933.
4. Ceplītis L., Katlape N. *Izteiksmīgas runas pamati*. Rīga, Zinātne, 1968.
5. Reu, Johann Michael. *Homiletics: A manual of the theory and practice of preaching*. Concordia heritage series, St Louis, 1977.
6. Apele R. *Runas māksla*. Rīga, Zvaigzne, 1982.
7. Hindls T. *Prasme uzstāties*. Rīga, Zvaigzne ABC, 2000.
8. Mencels V. *Retorika*. DE NOVO, 2002.
9. Grīšle, R. *Spēkildze*. Rīga, Antava, 2005.