

PRESIDING AND PREACHING AT THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

The Liturgy of the Hours is celebrated as usual, except:

LOH/Chant	Preaching Texts	Homily Groups
Omit Invitatory Psalm Hymn: 1 verse Presider chants gospel dialogue (Sun – include procession). Alleluia. Presider chants Easter Dismissal.	Sat MP = use Sat Mass readings (2+Ps) Sun EP1 = use Sunday Mass readings (3+Ps) Sun MP = use Sunday Mass readings (3+Ps) 2 Lectors: 1 for 1 st reading and psalm; 2 nd for 2 nd reading and intercessions	Form a “homily preparation group” in your parish; write-ups to include report of experience. See below for details. Your “candidate” groups should continue to meet. While you may choose to continue group lectio together, your focus this year should be on theological reflection and creating a support network for ministry after ordination.

1. The Invitatory psalm is omitted and we will only sing a single verse of the hymn.
2. We will use the readings from the Mass of the Day, as if at Mass. The lector proclaims the readings and the presider the gospel. Include the alleluia and (for Sunday) procession with the Book of the Gospels. The Gospel will be announced as a deacon would at Mass (chanted)
 - a. Saturday Morning Prayer = Saturday Mass
 - b. Sunday Evening Prayer I & Sunday Morning Prayer = Sunday Mass
3. The Responsory after the Reading is omitted.
4. The dismissal used during the Easter Octave (“Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia”) will be chanted.

Process to be Used

Input Sessions: Group Lectio Divina

A homily preparation group or a group of five to eight parishioners meets early in the process to discuss and inquire about the readings. The process for group *lectio divina* is followed. The preacher is not obliged to pursue the direction established in the discussion. Get permission before sharing any stories you hear in the preaching, making sure to change details so the original persons aren’t recognized.

There are a number of ways to enter into this ancient way of praying with the Scriptures, both individually and as a group. I offer one approach here:

1. One person reads the text out loud for the first time.
 - a. Listen for a word or phrase that touches or attracts you. Repeat it in your heart.
 - b. Allow for 2-3 minutes of silence.
 - c. Then invite the members of the group to simply share their word or phrase (without comments).
2. A second person reads the text out loud for the second time.
 - a. As you listen again, where does the content of the reading touch your life today?
 - b. Allow for 2-3 minutes of silence.
 - c. Then briefly share: “I see...” or “I hear...”
3. The text is read a final time by a third person.
 - a. As you listen this final time: “I believe God wants me to... today / this week.”
 - b. Allow for 2-3 minutes of silence.
 - c. Then invite the members of the group to share how the Good News connected to their lives and what difference it will make.

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4. Close in prayer [*oratio*].
 - a. Consider reading the text again.
 - b. Consider allowing members to offer praise, petition, or thanks as fitting.
 - c. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

Begin with the gospel. Then, the first reading. Add the psalm and second reading if there is time.

Follow-up Sessions

The preacher arranges to meet with the group prior to preaching the homily at Formation. The purpose of this meeting is threefold: for the preacher to get feedback, for the hearer to articulate a response to the Word of God, and for the church to be strengthened by the faith-sharing of its members. After someone has proclaimed the readings in a prayerful context, the candidate preaches his homily.

Afterwards, a member of the group (not the preacher) acts as the facilitator. The preacher listens to the feedback without comment. It would be better not to take notes but to listen (ask permission to record the session; otherwise, write up notes after the meeting).

The facilitator leads the group in discussing three questions:

- How did God's Word and the preaching touch your life today? or, What did you experience in hearing God's Word in today's preaching?
- What difference will God's Word and the preaching make in your week?
- Are the ways in which today's preacher might have improved in communicating the message?

The facilitator keeps discussion to these questions, assuring that no one dominates the discussion. The facilitator stops the discussion after no more than thirty minutes.

You may use the same group each time you preach or adjust the membership each time. A diverse membership is recommended.

Preaching at Formation

The homily should be around 7 minutes in length and use one of the forms you have learned. Presume that the parish is the audience and that you are preaching at Mass. When it is your turn to preach, please hand in the following (please number your pages) electronically:

1. A manuscript of the homily that includes: your name; the focus and function; and the text of the homily (with the parts of the form labeled, i.e., What/So What/Now What; Wilson's 4 Pages; the 5 parts of Lowry's Loop; the parts in Buttrick's Moves)
2. Mention anything particular about your parish that we need to know in order to contextualize your homily.
3. A brief report on your encountering the text via personal lectio and exegesis.
4. A brief report on your encountering the text via lectio in your homily preparation group.
5. A bibliography of the sources used in your exegesis, etc.
6. A brief report on the feedback you received from your group (see bullet points above).

Classmates will provide written and oral feedback after the preaching event.