

# Sermon May 15 2016 Pentecost Sunday Texts Genesis 11 1

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**One Heaven of a Party** - Charles D. Reeb 2003

**Lyrics for the Centuries** - Arthur H. Kolsti 1996

"Some musicians come along and the music speaks to a particular decade. The lyrics of David span the centuries... His lyrics endure and forever surface in our liturgy." -- from chapter 7 The ten sermons in this book are based on texts primarily from 1 and 2 Samuel. Titles include: - Saul, The Tormented King - When Saints Go Marching Forth - R.S.V.P. - The Strange Tactics Of God "The sermons of Art Kolsti are among the most consistently thoughtful and stimulating ones that I have heard, but they also contain ideas and subtitles that can slip past the listener on first hearing. They will amply repay the thoughtful and intelligent reader." Dr. James Munkres, Mathematics Dept. Massachusetts Institute of Technology "Arthur Kolsti's sermons are all marked by their spiritual substance, apt historical and contemporary illustrations, concise wording, and grounding in careful expositions of Christian scripture and teaching. Kolsti is exquisitely skillful in the use of words and the Word." Arthur J. Dyck Professor of Population Ethics, Harvard University Professor of Ethics, Harvard Divinity School Arthur H. Kolsti, Matinicus, Maine, is a graduate of Harvard University and Andover Newton

Theological School. He has served United Church of Christ congregations in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

**Sermons on the Second Readings** - James L. Killen, Jr. 2004

This superb collection of biblically sound sermons based on Cycle A epistle texts covers every Sunday and major celebration of the church year. The imaginative insights of five outstanding preachers will enlighten the mind and warm the heart with delightfully serendipitous surprises on every page. Their fresh and inspiring illustrations are sure to spark your own homiletical creativity.

**Wearing the Wind** - Stephen M. Crotts 1999

Stephen Crotts tells us that "nothing is spared the Spirit's influence. He shapes our friendships, our marriages, our love for our enemies, our heritage, sexual passion, wisdom, even our femininity and self-esteem." One of the nation's most eloquent preachers pulls contemporary wisdom from these ancient texts with sermons such as "How to Affair-Proof Your Marriage," "How to Treat Your Enemies," and "Godly Sexual Passion for an X-Rated World." Preachers will find much food for thought in these ten sermons based on Cycle B Old Testament texts. Stephen M. Crotts, an ordained minister of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, holds a

degree in philosophy from Furman University and an M.Div. degree from Emory University, and has engaged in graduate study at the University of London (England) and L'Abri Fellowship in Switzerland. Thousands of readers have found inspiration in his sixteen books. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Crotts is a popular campus speaker, and he and his wife frequently lead marriage renewal weekends.

A Word That Sets Free - Mark Ellingsen 2000

Inspired by the heritage of African-American churches, Mark Ellingsen has created innovative, visionary sermons on Old Testament texts from the Revised Common Lectionary. His messages reflect his unique vantage point as a Lutheran of Norwegian heritage teaching at a historically black seminary, and they are a model for anyone who wants to learn how to relate the Bible to the cutting-edge social issues of our day. Ellingsen suggests that many American Christians have abdicated their responsibility to advocate justice in our society or to talk about what the gospel can do in our lives and society as a whole from Monday through Saturday. Ellingsen believes these Old Testament texts are relevant to our contemporary lives. An all-too-common view of many Christians is look to the New Testament to find the liberating word of God, while viewing the Old Testament as being about the law and the confining demands of tradition. But Ellingsen says that the history of Christianity proves this is not true. He observes that Martin Luther was primarily an Old Testament scholar, and that African-American churches have based many of their traditions of liberation on Old Testament stories and prophetic traditions. "Mark Ellingsen's offering of sermons based on Old Testament texts reflects his usual thorough biblical scholarship and his readable, down-to-earth style that consistently render his material useful to both scholars and those seeking the inspiration of a faithful Christian." Richard H. Stough, Publisher King Publications Mark Ellingsen has had a rich and varied career as a parish pastor and a seminary professor. In addition to serving several Lutheran congregations in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, he has held teaching positions at Luther-Northwestern Seminary and the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France. Ellingsen currently is on the

faculty of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, the largest historic African-American seminary in the United States. A regular contributor to several homiletics periodicals, Ellingsen is also the author of ten books, some of which have been used as homiletics texts in many American and Canadian seminaries.

**Lutheran Almanac and Year-book** - 1904

Sermons on the Gospel Readings - Charles L. Aaron, Jr. 2007

Five outstanding preachers from diverse denominations skillfully weave together scripture with dynamic stories and illustrations to create eloquent messages for every Sunday and major celebration in the church year. Combining deep biblical grounding with an astute understanding of the meaning of Jesus' message and ministry for contemporary living, these insightful sermons pull readers into God's Word and engage both the mind and the heart. Offering a vision of God's unconditional love and the grace-filled life, this collection of model messages from an experienced group of master preachers passionately proclaims the Good News, provides a wealth of sermon seeds, and revitalizes the faith of anyone who reads them.

**Sermons on the Gospel Readings** - David T. Ball 2005

Packed with inspiring illustrations that enlighten the mind and warm the heart, this complete collection of thoughtful sermons for each Sunday and major celebration throughout the entire church year is a gold mine of creative preaching ideas ? and an invaluable source of insight into faithful Christian living amidst the challenges of today's secular world. Five outstanding preachers from diverse ministry settings reflect on the events of Jesus' life and their contemporary meaning in messages based on Gospel passages from Cycle B of the Revised Common Lectionary. Combining a strong foundation in the scriptural text with a deep understanding of vital current issues, these sermons passionately proclaim the Good News while pointing readers toward a strengthened and renewed spiritual relationship with Christ, the rock of our salvation.

Sermons on the Second Readings - John Neal Brittain 2007

The New Testament epistles are more than a historical record of the

early church -- they are also the heart and center of Christian proclamation, clearly outlining how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is part of God's cosmic plan of salvation. In this sermon anthology, five distinguished preachers draw valuable lessons from the pastoral letters for the complex challenges posed by life in the 21st century. Each thought-provoking message is filled with compelling stories and illustrations, and offers a clear and authentic vision of Christian faith in the context of daily life. With material for every Sunday and major celebration throughout the entire church year, this resource provides abundant seeds for preaching, teaching, and meditation, and will become a treasured addition to anyone's reference library.

Feasting on the Word: Season after Pentecost 2 (Propers 17- Reign of Christ) - David L. Bartlett 2010-01-01

With the twelve-volume series *Feasting on the Word*, Westminster John Knox Press offers one of the most extensive and well-respected resources for preaching on the market today. When complete, the twelve volumes will cover all of the Sundays in the three-year lectionary cycle, along with moveable occasions. The page layout is truly unique. For each lectionary text, preachers will find brief essays-- one each on the exegetical, theological, pastoral, and homiletical challenges of the text. Each volume will also contain an index of biblical passages so that nonlectionary preachers may make use of its contents. The printed volumes for Ordinary Time include the complementary stream during Year A, the complementary stream during the first half of Year B, the semicontinuous stream during the second half of Year B, and the semicontinuous stream during Year C. Beginning with the season after Pentecost for Year C, the alternate lections for Ordinary Time not in the print volumes will be available online at [feastingontheword.net](http://feastingontheword.net).

**The Acts of the Apostles** - P.D. James 1999-01-01

Acts is the sequel to Luke's gospel and tells the story of Jesus's followers during the 30 years after his death. It describes how the 12 apostles, formerly Jesus's disciples, spread the message of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean against a background of persecution. With an introduction by P.D. James

**Out of the Whirlwind** - John A. Stroman 1999-01-01

Writing on the lectionary texts from Job, Stroman deals with extremely contemporary issues. We discover in these messages that Job's struggles are the same as ours. The texts from Ruth and 1 Samuel introduce us to four important Old Testament women: Naomi, Orpah, Ruth, and Hannah. They all play an important role in the biblical narrative, as well as providing insight into vital current issues. Chapters include: - Taking the Good With the Bad -- (Job 1:1; 2:1-10) - Making Our Feelings Known -- (Job 23:1-9, 16-17) - The Tale of Three Women -- (Ruth 1:1-8) - God Remembers -- (1 Samuel 1:4-20) ... and more! John A. Stroman recently served as Lecturer in New Testament Studies at Trinity Theological College in Accra, Ghana (West Africa). Prior to that he was senior pastor of the 3,000-member Pasadena Community Church (United Methodist) in St. Petersburg, Florida. Stroman served as a United Methodist minister for 38 years in the Southern New Jersey and Florida Conferences. He also serves on the Florida Conference Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, and the Advisory Council of Bethune-Cookman College. He has written numerous articles in addition to his six books.

*Lectionary Preaching Workbook, Series II: Cycle B* - Perry H. Biddle 1987

**Preaching after Easter: Mid-Pentecost, Ascension, and Pentecost in Late Antiquity** - Richard W. Bishop 2016-06-21

Preaching after Easter examines the festal history and homiletics of Mid-Pentecost, Ascension, and Pentecost in the late-antique Mediterranean world. Methodologically rigorous studies of important sermons and preachers are complemented by attention to Jewish-Christian dialogue, art-historical reception, and contemporary liturgical theology.

The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday's Texts,

The First Readings: - Roger E. Van Harn 2005-09-09

Preaching pastors, ministers, and priests know how quickly Sundays come and go. Protecting time for study and theological reflection is an art not easily mastered. The fast pace of church life collides with the need to ground sermons in careful exegesis and extensive dialogue with

biblical texts. "The Lectionary Commentary" will not slow the pace of the weekly calendar, but it will help assure that sermon preparation begins with a solid engagement with Scripture. This superb three-volume work offers exegetical essays on the biblical texts from the Revised Common Lectionary, Years A, B, and C. All the Sundays of the three-year cycle are included, as well as the texts for Christmas Day, Epiphany, and Ascension Day. This volume, "The First Readings: Old Testament and Acts," provides exegetical commentary on the lectionary readings from Genesis to Malachi, and from the first seventeen chapters of Acts. Also unique to this volume is an excellent essay on "Preaching as Worship" by Hughes Oliphant Old. The authors of "The Lectionary Commentary" are an ecumenical mix of respected pastors, priests, ministers, and teachers for whom exegesis for preaching is a vocational and personal interest. Some are preachers who value exegesis; others are exegetes who value preaching. All value the Revised Common Lectionary as a guide for good preaching. Designed to answer the question "What does the preacher need to know about this text in order to preach a faithful sermon from it?," the essay in each chapter closely considers its specific biblical text and provides theological reflection, all the while remaining alert to the contemporary context in which the sermon will be spoken and heard. These are not books of sermons. They leave homiletical work to the preacher, who is called to contextualize the gospel from biblical texts. Rather, these essays are meant to serve as exegetical "jump starts," giving preachers a firm place to stand in the text while at the same time stimulating the concerns they bring to sermon preparation. The result is an invaluable resource intended to aid in the difficult task of facilitating a meaningful encounter between Holy Scripture and our modern world. Consulting Editors: Richard A. Burrige Thomas W. Gillespie Colin E. Gunton Robert W. Jenson James F. Kay Hughes Oliphant Old Fleming Rutledge Marguerite Shuster  
Sermons on the First Readings: Cycle A - John T. Ball 2004-06-01 Bring the Old Testament scriptures to life with this inspiring and thought-provoking sermon collection. Powerful messages by five exceptional preachers interpret these ancient texts in fresh ways for

today's Christian living. Combining creative imagination with abundant insight into vital current issues, these insightful homilies proclaim timeless themes of justice and righteousness while building our trust in the Lord's divine providence.

**Questions of Faith** - Marilyn Saure Breckenridge 2001

The lectionary passages from the Gospel of Matthew for the middle section of the Pentecost season raise many difficult questions of faith for modern Christians. In eleven eloquent and well-illustrated messages, Marilyn Saure Breckenridge examines these questions and searches for relevant answers. She notes that while these texts confront us with our human limitations, they also demonstrate how God's grace embraces us. Her ability to combine the scripture with contemporary applications makes these inspiring examples of the art of preaching at its finest. Sermon titles include: - What Is Priceless? (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52) - Are You A Risk Taker? (Matthew 14:22-33) - Who Is Jesus To You? (Matthew 16:13-20) - Is Big Brother Watching You? (Matthew 18:15-20) - Why Doesn't God Do Something? (Matthew 21:33-46) Marilyn Saure Breckenridge is the senior pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Wadena, Minnesota. She has also served as assistant to the bishop of the ELCA's Saint Paul Area Synod, and as associate pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis. Breckenridge had the honor of being the Minnesota Senate Chaplain for 1995 and 1996. She is a graduate of Augsburg College (B.A.), Hartford Seminary (M.A. in Christian Education), and Luther Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.). In 1994 Augsburg College named Breckenridge a Distinguished Alumna. She has also penned an Advent family activity book ("Jesse Tree Devotions"), two Bible studies on Philippians, and numerous articles for church magazines.

Sermons on the First Readings: Cycle C - Steven E. Albertin 2003-05-01 Filled with wit, insight, and inspiration, this anthology includes sermons for every Sunday and major celebration throughout the Christian year based on the First Readings from Cycle C of the Revised Common Lectionary. Three outstanding preachers from diverse denominational backgrounds interpret texts from the Old Testament and Acts in fresh

ways that proclaim the good news for the twenty-first century. Their powerful messages remind us that the Hebrew scriptures are much more than just ancient history and explore what they mean for us today. Proclaiming timeless themes of justice and righteousness, as well as God's faithful covenant and enduring forgiveness, these imaginative homilies call us to lead better, more God-centered lives. This is an essential resource that's useful for: - Fresh homiletical approaches to the lectionary texts - Preaching illustrations - A clearer understanding of scripture passages - Adult study and discussion groups - Personal devotions and Bible study on each Sunday's texts "The illustrations in these sermons, taken from both classical and common sources, as well as personal experiences, are worth the price of the book. I'll buy any book of sermons that gives me one or two good illustrations that are fresh and believable. Charles Reeb is a master at illustrating his points." John K. Bergland Former Professor of Preaching and Associate Dean Duke Divinity School Former editor, "Abingdon Preaching Annual"

*Acting on the Absurd* - Gary L. Carver 2001

Packed full of stories about the human condition, this book of insightful sermons based largely on texts from Paul's letter to the Romans will be invaluable to preachers, teachers, and laypersons. Readers will serendipitously find marvelous results when one acts in faith on the "absurd" notion that God loves us unconditionally. These messages from an outstanding preacher demonstrate that when we follow the example of Paul and faithfully try to become what God created us to be, wonderful things begin to happen! "Gary Carver moves beyond those who find Paul's words to be complex and rigid. He gives to us examples in which Paul's timeless and deep theological concepts are used to address the struggles of contemporary Christians sensitively.... From teenage athletes to contacts in Alcoholics Anonymous to couples struggling with marriage and a host of other human experiences, Carver profoundly recalls experiences that illustrate Paul's insistence that one can experience a changed life in Christ." (from the Foreword) Harold C. Warlick Jr. Professor of Religion and Minister to the University High Point University "With a scholarly understanding of the Pauline writings,

Gary Carver uses his masterful skills as a storyteller to bring the biblical accounts to life. His treatment of each passage is brought to a climax with probing ethical insight and deeply moving personal application. Both laypersons and preachers will benefit greatly from a reading of these prophetic sermons laced with marvelous illustrations." Thomas H. Graves President, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond "To experience the preaching of Gary Carver is to find oneself in a gallery of living illustrations, all pointing to Jesus Christ. No cookie-cutter preacher, this gifted communicator is endowed both with uncommon insight into the human predicament and God's absurdly fetching grace. Read this book and discover God's spirit calling you to a more meaningful, involved following of Jesus." Timothy L. Owings Pastor, First Baptist Church Augusta, Georgia "Gary Carver has a vivid sense of the wonder God creates in everyday life, and he has a keen eye for the human condition.... His insight into the Bible and into the heart of its stories always finds the underlying story of hope, even in the most hopeless-looking of situations. His discoveries, then, make it seem quite natural and sensible to "act on the absurd."" Dudley Rose Director of Field Education Harvard Divinity School Gary L. Carver is pastor of First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has also served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Indiana. Carver is a graduate of Samford University (B.A.) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.) and has done additional graduate study at Candler School of Theology and Harvard Divinity School. He has been widely published in a variety of church and clergy publications, and is the author of "Distinctively Different" and "Out From the Ordinary" (CSS).

*Sermons on the Gospel Readings* - David J. Kalas 2003

Full of gripping illustrations that bring the scriptures to life, this anthology of sermons for the entire church year offers readers a treasure trove of spiritual guidance. Five distinguished preachers representing a variety of denominations and ministry settings contribute messages based on gospel texts for each Sunday and major celebration in Cycle C of the Revised Common Lectionary. Their thoughtful meditations proclaim the good news for today's world and exemplify the transforming

power of God's word in our lives. Unforgettable in their power and biblical witness, these sermons provide readers with strength, support, and a Christ-centered vision. This is an essential resource that's useful for: - Fresh homiletical approaches to the lectionary texts - Preaching illustrations - A clearer understanding of scripture passages - Adult study and discussion groups - Personal devotions and Bible study on each Sunday's readings "Frank Honeycutt's sermons are exciting in their evocative power. His narrative ability is a real gift that enables these messages to illumine the word of God and human life so that a listener is drawn into the word and encouraged to reflect, remember, and think about life in terms of God's activity. These sermons reflect a pastor whose imaginative juices flow mightily." Thomas E. Ridenhour McClurg Distinguished Professor of Homiletics Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary "I am impressed by the sense of urgency in Robert Cueni's messages. When the specter of my immediate death flashes before me, I want to know that I have lived toward God's reign with all that I have. These sermons help transform me in that direction." Ronald J. Allen Sweeney & Miller Professor of Preaching and New Testament Christian Theological Seminary *Celebrating the Lectionary® for Junior High 2015-2016* - Celebrating the Lectionary for Junior High provides 15-minute Lectionary-based catechetical sessions. It includes a CD-ROM with reproducible send-home pages for each Sunday and Holyday of Obligation that encourage adolescents to develop a practice of prayer and bring the message of the Lectionary into their daily lives.

**A Call to Love: Second Lesson Sermons for Sundays After Pentecost (Middle Third), Cycle A** - Tommy Garrison 2001

"Some things can come only when the Spirit takes over and somehow we become what we never thought we could be, because the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. There are occasions when those sighs come to the surface and we know that God has taken our hearts to places we did not know could exist." -- from Proper 12 sermon, "Strength Out of Weakness" Through fascinating anecdotes and stories drawn from his wide-ranging ministerial experience, Tom

Garrison applies epistle readings from the Revised Common Lectionary to contemporary life. His powerful and insightful messages proclaim the good news, trumpeting God's amazing and unconditional love for us while reciting countless examples of how we can reflect that love in our everyday lives. His illustrations have a folksy charm, and readers will discover that the sermons of this veteran preacher provide plenty of nourishing food for thought. Sermon titles include: \* The Pain of Caring (Romans 9:1-5) \* A Living Sacrifice (Romans 12:1-8) \* Who Am I to Judge Another? (Romans 14:1-12) \* Living on the Edge (Philippians 1:21-30) Tom M. Garrison is the senior pastor of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He has also served as pastor of congregations in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and Nova Scotia (Canada). Garrison is a graduate of Alabama Christian College (B.A.), Southern Christian University (M.A. and M.Div.), and Columbia Theological Seminary (D.Min.). Additional graduate study has included independent preaching study with Fred Craddock. Garrison has taught ministry and homiletics at Southern Christian University (Montgomery, Alabama) and Atlantic School of Theology (Halifax, Nova Scotia).

*Called by the Gospel* - Michael Paul Middendorf 2007-07-15

*Called by the Gospel* is the title for a series of introductory theological textbooks written from a distinctly Lutheran perspective. In keeping with the predominant place of the gospel in Lutheran theology, this introductory volume on the New Testament carries the same title as the series, *Called by the Gospel*. Readers will find within its pages a high view of the Christian Scriptures, explanation of keys texts with careful attention to the historical and cultural contexts, particular focus on the presentation of Jesus by the various texts, and a conversational style that seeks to convey the message of the text for contemporary times.

Although the book was written with university students in mind, any Christians who seek to deepen their grasp of the New Testament will find within its pages helpful and challenging insights. This book builds on material presented in the first volume of the series, *Called to be God's People*, and supplements its contents with maps, photos, suggested readings, discussion questions, and a glossary. Together these two

volumes prepare the university student for an in-depth consideration of Christian doctrine in *Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess*.

**The Transforming Power of a Changed Perspective** - R. Robert Cueni 2003

*Two Kings and Three Prophets for Less Than a Quarter* - Robert Leslie Holmes 2000

Based on texts mainly drawn from the books of First and Second Kings, Robert Leslie Holmes' finely honed sermons focus on the ministries of the prophets Elijah, Elisha, and Amos. Through the stories of the prophets, Holmes addresses the unchanging theme of the gospel: that God loves the world and gave his Son, the King of kings, to save it. Packed with enlightening illustrations, these nourishing messages will help generate ideas for preaching and enrich the faith of all who read them. "I highly commend to you these sermons by Leslie Holmes. They are well crafted and biblical. His quotations and illustrations will be particularly helpful!" John A. Huffman Jr. Senior Minister, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newport Beach, California "This is a book for preachers, presented as sermons with many texts but a single message -- namely, God's love manifested in Jesus Christ. The author clearly understands that our primary task as preachers is to educate the people of God in the spirit and power of John 3:16 for ministries in a changing world. Our mission is to be faithful to God's mission of love and forgiveness demonstrated by Jesus. That is the challenge that Holmes brings to readers." Carnegie Samuel Calian President, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary "Leslie Holmes has prepared a faithful and practical resource for preaching First and Second Kings. Whether or not the lectionary is used, his insight into these passages along with the illustrative material will prove valuable for the pulpit and the pew." John W. Coker Jr. Minister, First Presbyterian Church Fayetteville, North Carolina A native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Robert Leslie Holmes is currently Senior Minister at the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. He earned a B.A. degree from the University of Mobile (Alabama), his M.Div. degree from the Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, Mississippi), and a D.Min. degree from

Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, Georgia), with post-doctoral studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, and New College (Edinburgh, Scotland). Holmes has preached and lectured on six continents and has spoken at conferences and churches throughout the United States and Canada.

**Let's Get Committed** - Derl G. Keefer 2001-01-01

"People seem dazzled by the world's glitter of false grandeur and pay little to no attention to the majesty of God. The sparkle of glitter the world offers does nothing but litter the ocean floor of the spirit. A saint's job is to pay close attention to the security of God's grandeur -- magnitude, creation, mercy, hope, happiness, joy, peace, and life. With God as our ship we can stay afloat for eternity." (from All Saints' Sunday sermon, "Called To Be Saints") Derl Keefer explores the timeless and life-changing truths of the Bible in ten powerful and effective messages based on First Lesson passages from the Revised Common Lectionary. While particularly useful to pastors gleaning ideas for their own preaching, these sermons offer an abundant dose of spiritual power to all who read and digest them. Sermon titles include: \* Where Are We Without God? -- Exodus 33:12-23 \* Leaving A Legacy -- Deuteronomy 34:1-12 \* Reformation To Transformation -- Jeremiah 31:31-34 \* God's New Shepherd -- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 "You will enjoy the reading journey of Let's Get Committed. These are sermons written by a practitioner, a pastor who has passion for people and for sermon preparation.... While Keefer's illustrations are clear and his quotes are pertinent, the priority is how they bring focus to the Word. They are biblical in an age when God's Word needs to be heard throughout the land.... There is meat here for the mind and inspiration for the heart." (from the Foreword) C. Neal Strait District Superintendent, Michigan District Church of the Nazarene Derl G. Keefer is a graduate of Southern Nazarene University (B.A.) and Nazarene Theological Seminary (M.Div.). He has been the pastor of congregations in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois, and is currently serving in Kansas City, Missouri, as the Developmental Ministries coordinator for the International Church of the Nazarene's Adult Ministry Division. His sermons and articles have

appeared in numerous clergy publications, and he often leads workshops and seminars on preaching and Sunday School ministry. Keefer was named the Church of the Nazarene's Michigan District Pastor of the Year in 1995, and in 2000 Southern Nazarene University honored him as its Alumni Pastor of the Year. He is the co-author of "Wedding Sermons & Marriage Ceremonies" (CSS), and is also co-editor of "The Wesleyan Preaching Annual" (CSS).

**Sermons of Martin Luther: Sermons on Gospel texts for Pentecost**  
- Martin Luther 1907

**What If What They Say Is True?** - John W. Wurster 2000

Since much of the prophetic literature of the Old Testament is distant and difficult, preachers often neglect it in favor of more direct and easy-to-preach New Testament passages. But John Wurster maintains that for those willing to look a little more closely, these texts from the Revised Common Lectionary offer interesting and rich homiletical possibilities. His sermons listen to those ancient preachers and produce a fresh harvest of meaning for our time. They are full of penetrating insights that will be useful for sermon preparation or for study groups working on these often overlooked texts. "These thoughtful sermons on the great prophetic texts bring the message of the prophets home to our own time. John Wurster is faithful to the biblical word, unflinching in his critique of our culture, and unceasing in his proclamation of the true word of hope." Thomas G. Long F.L. Patton Professor of Preaching and Worship Princeton Theological Seminary "John Wurster's sermons give new and surprisingly fresh life to the ancient and sometimes jagged words of the Old Testament prophets. Wurster is true to the biblical texts and to the lived realities of everyday life. These are well-honed sermons about large issues -- life and death, God and grace, conflicts and questions, love and faithfulness, heaven and earth. Read them, meditate on them, and let God touch your soul." Dennis T. Olson Associate Professor of Old Testament Princeton Theological Seminary John W. Wurster is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas ("summa cum laude") and Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently the associate

pastor of Market Street Presbyterian Church in Lima, Ohio, Wurster is also a D.Min. candidate at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has previously served congregations in Texas, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

**Pentecost Fire** - Schuyler Rhodes 2001-01-01

In a time of divisiveness, poverty, oppression, and war, the messages of Schuyler Rhodes send a clarion call for renewal in the church. Like the apostles on Pentecost, Rhodes offers words that comfort and provoke; words that empower and give us vision of a better world. His sermons build on the gospel texts to bring spiritual insight and hope in place of cynicism and despair. Bringing the ancient biblical wisdom to bear on contemporary society, this volume is excellent for inspiration, study, and discussion. "These sermons tell the truth, unsettling or devastating as this may be to conventional Christian ears.... I love this little book. It weaves through our scripture with verve, dignity, and good humor; the touch is now light, now a flick of the whip, the words rife with the truth that both hurts and heals." (from the Foreword) Daniel Berrigan, SJ Schuyler Rhodes is the pastor of Temple United Methodist Church in San Francisco, California. He previously pastored Washington Square United Methodist Church in New York City and served as executive director and campus pastor for the Wesley Foundation, a broad-based campus ministry at the University of California (Berkeley). Rhodes' commitment to social justice and peace has taken him around the globe. Over the last decade, he has traveled to more than a dozen countries, serving as a delegate to several consultations of the World Council of Churches, as the secretary of the Social and International Affairs Committee of the World Methodist Council, and as the chair of the board of directors for Pastors for Peace and the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizing. He has also been a consultant on Peace and Justice Ministries for the Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries, developing liturgical and training materials as well as representing the General Board at numerous national and international gatherings. A prolific writer, Rhodes is an honors graduate of Drew University Theological School (M.Div.) and the State University of New York at

Potsdam (B.A.).

**Distinctively Different** - Gary L. Carver 2001

"Be like me! "While many parents and leaders are understandably hesitant to utter such words, they are vitally needed today in a world where positive role models are often few and far between. Yet in these Cycle A epistle texts, the Apostle Paul is not bashful about challenging Christians to follow his example and live distinctively different lives -- lives that reflect the image of the risen Christ. Gary Carver shares that vision, and these outstanding messages lay out for readers the belief that we can grow every day to be more like Jesus. "Gary Carver preaches at a way station on an ancient pilgrim road, offering comfort and hope to the weary traveler.... In these compelling sermons, Gary preaches to the mixed band of pilgrims jostling our way along toward the goal of spiritual discovery, and he speaks to our fears and doubts, our longings and our need, and most of all to our hunger to be closer to one whose presence forms the end of our restless trek.... Read these wonderful sermons and enjoy them. But, more important, read these sermons and take courage as you move faithfully along the pilgrim way." (from the Foreword) Thomas G. Long Bandy Professor of Preaching Candler School of Theology, Emory University "Someone has said that preaching is presenting the gospel through human personality. In this collection of well-crafted lectionary sermons, Gary Carver has ably presented the gospel -- his personality is evident in the richness of examples and illustrations." June McEwen Chair, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Washington DC "Distinctively Different is a very contemporary collection of spirited and spiritual reflections. In a quiet dialogue with Gary Carver, you are invited to revive your theological commitments, reflect on difficult questions, and renew your faith perspective. Share these motivational and innovative thoughts with your Bible study or your prayer group." Claudia Highbaugh Chaplain Harvard Divinity School "Preaching effectively to the same people week after week is one of the great challenges in Christian ministry. Gary Carver shows how it is done: biblical exposition, effective illustration, and relevant application. The power of these messages is that intellectual integrity is matched with

passion." Daniel Vestal Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Atlanta, Georgia "You simply must read Gary Carver's book! If you want to meet Paul in the street and not just in the sanctuary, read this book. If you want to see that Paul's insights are more contemporary than this morning's newspaper, read this book. If you want your spirit refreshed and your soul uplifted, read this book. Give yourself a break today, read this book!" Buckner Fanning Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church San Antonio, Texas Gary L. Carver is pastor of First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has also served as pastor of churches in Alabama and Indiana. Carver is a graduate of Samford University (B.A.) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.), and has done additional graduate study at Candler School of Theology and Harvard Divinity School. He has been widely published in a variety of church and clergy publications, and is the author of "Acting on the Absurd" and "Out From the Ordinary" (CSS).

**From the Inside Out** - Royden Loewen 1999-10-12

Historian Royden Loewen has brought together selections from diaries kept by 21 Mennonites in Canada between 1863 and 1929, some translated from German for the first time. By skillfully comparing and contrasting a wide cross-section of lives, Loewen shows how these diaries often turn the hidden contours of household and community "inside out." The writers featured were ordinary rural people: young women and grandmothers, rural preachers and landless householders. They include a teenaged boy who immigrated from Russia to Manitoba in 1875 as well as a successful merchant, a traveling evangelist, and a devout, conservative church elder. An elderly grandfather recounted the daily circuit of his children's homes, while 19-year-old Marie Schoeder wrote of her literary aspirations, her "secret hope" that some day she would "write things that have a real worth, things that are worth printing, and things that other folks would love to read and pay for." From the Inside Out also contrasts diaries from two distinct Mennonite communities in Canada. The Swiss-American Mennonites in Waterloo County, Ontario, faced rapid urbanization, while the Dutch-Russian Mennonites in southern Manitoba maintained their more rural

environment. The diaries mirror their writers' preoccupations with work and weather, but they also reveal a community's social structure and round of activities such as weddings, funerals, and worship services. In the process of diary-keeping, the writers sought to make sense of a dynamic and often unpredictable world. Reading what they chose to record is to learn much about their culture. Their writings provide glimpses of their lives, their collective mindset, and their history as a people.

*Sermons on the Gospel Readings* - Paul E. Flesner 2002

A collection of sermons based on the liturgical year.

*Living on One Day's Rations* - Douglas B. Bailey 2001

In eleven thought-provoking sermons based upon texts from Genesis and Exodus, Douglas Bailey highlights events from the lives of Jacob, his son Joseph, and Moses. But these messages are more than simple biblical exegesis -- drawing on insights from scholarly research, Bailey demonstrates that the spiritual struggles and faith of Jacob, Joseph, and Moses are very pertinent to vital issues we face in our lives today. For example, Jacob's "growing pains" make us wonder "What prizes are worth working for?" and "Why does God pick a fight with us and challenge us to a wrestling match?" Similarly, the story of Joseph leads us to ask why genuine forgiveness is truly painful. And sermons reviewing major episodes in the life of Moses raise such questions as "Can we really trust God to come through when the chips are down?" and "Can an affluent society ever accept God's limited offer of one day's blessings -- one day at a time?" Bailey mines the texts for answers to these timely questions, proving that the ancient texts are still very relevant. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Douglas B. Bailey is a graduate of the University of Michigan (B.A.), Yale Divinity School (B.D., S.T.M.), and the University of Wisconsin (Ph.D.). In addition to serving pastorates in Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin, Bailey spent over twenty years in administration for Franklin County Children's Services in Columbus, Ohio. Bailey contributed to the "1998 Daily Book of Prayer" published by United Church Press, and continues to serve as a supply pastor for vacationing clergy. He is also an active

member of the United Christian Center ecumenical campus ministry board at Ohio State University.

*A Hope that Does Not Disappoint* - Billy D. Strayhorn 2000

In a world filled with disappointments, where many people have lost any sense of hope and purpose, Billy Strayhorn reminds readers that Jesus Christ is the hope that does not disappoint. And noting that hope and faith go hand in hand, his messages point the way toward a life filled with hope and possibilities through faith in God. Strayhorn's sermons explore second lesson passages from the Revised Common Lectionary (many drawn from Paul's letters) for Pentecost and the weeks immediately following. And Pentecost is an apt focus -- as the church's "birthday," it is the day that the hopes and dreams of Jesus' disciples and followers began to take shape. While pastors will find in these hope-filled pages a jumping-off place for their own sermons, anyone who wants a closer relationship with God will benefit from this inspiring and uplifting volume. Titles include: - Bewitched, Bothered, And Bewildered -- Acts 2:1-21 - A Hope That Does Not Disappoint -- Romans 5:1-5 - Born And Called -- Galatians 1:11-24 - Bear One Another's Burdens -- Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16 - Get Your Transfer Here -- Colossians 1:1-14 ... and more! Billy D. Strayhorn is a graduate of Central Methodist College (Fayette, Missouri) and Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He has pastored many congregations in Texas and Missouri, and now serves at First United Methodist Church in Joshua, Texas. Strayhorn's sermons and sermon briefs have been featured in several outlets, including "Dynamic Preaching" and "Preaching" magazines as well as the "Abingdon Preaching Annual."

*No Particular Place to Go* - Timothy J. Smith 1996

Written in a narrative, storytelling style, these sermons based on texts from 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Song of Solomon, Proverbs, Esther, and Job capture the drama of the Old Testament and bring it to life for contemporary listeners. "Timothy Smith is a bright young preacher who has learned to blend old stories with contemporary stories to tell the gospel story. Reading *No Particular Place to Go*, his collection of Old Testament sermons, will spark many creative sermon ideas as you

prepare to preach." Dr. Thomas Lane Butts Monroeville, Alabama 1996 Protestant Hour Preacher "Timothy Smith achieves two important goals in his Old Testament lectionary series. First, he is faithful to the text as he tells the story. Second, he provides helpful ways for contemporary Christians to relate the Old Testament to their everyday lives." Dr. Rodney E. Wilmoth Minneapolis, Minnesota "These sermons bring the ever-present human condition off the pages of the Old Testament and into the realities of the late twentieth century. They focus on the ancient scriptures through the lens of the gospel in a way that proclaims salvation without moralizing." Dr. Kendall K. McCabe Former Professor of Homiletics and Worship United Theological Seminary Timothy J. Smith is pastor of the Bird-in-Hand Methodist Church in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch and Amish Country. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and has served churches in Eastern Pennsylvania.

**Arkansas Methodist** - 1920

*Foundations for Preaching and Teaching*® - Peggy Ekerdt 2015

**Sermons on the First Readings: Cycle B** - Mary S. Lautensleger 2005 The Old Testament details the epic faith story of ancient people who, just like us today, seek God's answers to complex problems. Yet because pastors sometimes overlook this rich source of preaching texts, many people in the pews are not fully aware of the Hebrew Scriptures and their profound lessons for modern living. In this inspiring collection of spiritually enlightening messages based on the First Readings from Cycle B of the Revised Common Lectionary, four master preachers insightfully demonstrate the continuing relevance of passages from the Old Testament and the book of Acts. Building on stories in which God moves ordinary people to extraordinary heights, these sermons powerfully proclaim timeless themes of justice and righteousness while reminding us that God's grace is the model for the Christian community's core values of self-giving love and forgiveness. Each thought-provoking message is filled with compelling stories and illustrations from everyday

life, and challenges readers to love and serve the Lord, trusting in divine providence even in the midst of a world that sometimes seems cruel and senseless. This essential resource is useful for: - Fresh homiletical approaches to the lectionary texts - Preaching illustrations - Understanding scripture passages - Bible study and discussion groups - Personal devotions and inspirational reading

**Feasting on the Word: Pentecost and season after Pentecost 1 (Propers 3-16)** - David Lyon Bartlett 2009-01-01

We have been honored to work with a multitude of gifted thinkers, writers, and editors. We present these essays as their offering-and ours-to the blessed ministry of preaching." -From the introduction by David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor --Book Jacket.

The Home Stretch - Mary Sue Dehmlow Dreier 2001

Mary Sue Dehmlow Dreier believes that our contemporary world desperately needs to hear the central message of the final chapters of Matthew's gospel. In this wonderful sermon series based on Cycle A lectionary gospel texts, Dreier deftly uses clear examples to shed light on the biblical text. Her focus is on Jesus' call to serve while at the same time keeping our vision on the promised fulfillment. Like Matthew's community, today's church also needs an active faith that is rooted not only in the here and now, but also the parousia. Readers will discover that Dreier's insight into these readings makes the scriptures understandable and relevant to modern Christians -- she has a flair for communicating the gospel to the everyday person in the pew. "Pastor Mary Sue Dreier is a preacher who preaches up on her toes, not from her heels. She hits the biblical texts straight on, and it results in a hands-on experience with God. She preaches to all, and her words confront and inspire. Her parishioners know from her preaching what they are called to do. You will be convicted of your failures in your life of discipleship, but her declaration of God's grace enables her hearers to act in this world as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It has been a joy for me to follow Pastor Dreier's growth as a pastor and proclaimer of the gospel. She is a committed disciple of Jesus Christ and a gifted proclaimer of God's word." Glenn W. Nycklemoe Bishop, Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America "Pastor Mary Sue Dreier has a wonderful talent for taking a Bible passage we've all heard a hundred times and making it come alive through detailed personal stories. Her sermons help me understand what the Gospel means to me today and what I can do about it -- how God is calling me to a life of Christian servanthood." Kathleen Creager Rochester, Minnesota Along with her

husband Gary, Mary Sue Dehmlow Dreier is the co-pastor and mission developer of People of Hope, A Lutheran Church in Mission (ELCA) in Rochester, Minnesota. Active in their synod, the Dreiers have also served two other Minnesota congregations. Mary Sue is a graduate of Valparaiso University (B.A.) and Luther Seminary (M.Div.).