This 47-item bibliography lists selected sources which offer advice, instruction, and opinion on the subject of clerical reading, including when and how it should be done. Basic speech textbooks and articles; secular oral interpretation textbooks and articles; religious source materials; and classical collections of sermons are annotated and included. (RAE)
FULPIT READING

A Selected, Annotated Bibliography Prepared by
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Distributed by the Speech Communication Association, 5105 Backlick Rd.,
Bldg. E., Annandale, VA 22003. This bibliography may be reproduced for free
distribution without SCA permission.

Much of what is delivered by the clergy in front of worshippers is done from
manuscript. There are sermons, collects, prayers, litanies, responsive
readings, announcements, lessons, etc. This bibliography will list selected
sources which offer advice, instruction, and opinion on the subject of
clerical reading, including when and how it should be done.

Basic Speech Textbooks and Articles

Ihninger, Douglas and others. Principles and Types of Speech Communication.
textbooks have enjoyed such lasting success as this one, first written in 1935
by the late Alan H. Monroe. How to achieve workable, useable notes, outlines,
and/or manuscripts. Vocalisation and good oral style discussed.

McCroskey, James C. An Introduction to Rhetorical Communication: The Theory
1968. This book continues to be among the most thorough of communication
textbooks, truly a classic in the field.

Schmidt, Ralph N. "Speaking a Written Speech." Today's Speech, vol. 11, no. 1
(February 1963), 4-5. Schmidt distinguishes between readers and speakers of
printed speeches. He urges everyone to take a course in oral interpretation
if s/he does any public speaking.

Sprague, Jo and Douglas Stuart. The Speaker's Handbook. Second ed. NY:
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1988, 241-5. Style clear and readable,
information concise and valid. Manuscript values and the mandatory warnings.

Secular Oral Interpretation Textbooks and Articles

Bacon, Wallace A. and Robert S. Breen. Literature as Experience. NY:
a necessary part of all educated persons. Clergy need to have a broad back-
ground, supplementing knowledge of scripture with other writings.

practical introduction to the subject. Brief definitions and clarifications,
along with simple reading notation systems, many helpful examples.

Interpretation." Western Speech, Vol. 28, (Summer 1964), 135-166.
See Klyn below. See Mattingly below.

Klyn, Mark S. "The Terms of Feeling." See Grimes, above, 159-166. Klyn
examines the dilemma which confronts the clergy even more than it faces the
lay reader or speaker: "How emotionally involved should one be in oral
reading?" He explores the temptation to retreat into coolness and lack of
involvement, cites significant literary, philosophical, and theological works,
and contends that refusing to confront the feelings in a work is dehumanizing.


Perrine, Laurence. Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry. 5th ed. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1977. This well-traveled text should be perused by anyone who wants to read poetry well, alone or orally to others.

Post, Robert M. "Perception through Performance of Literature." Communication Education, XIX, no. 3 (Sept. 1970), 168-172. Both performer and audience gain increased perception—heightened understanding through the "intricate relationship of the senses, the intellect, and the emotions"—through oral performance of written material. Well-prepared delivery of any written material, from pulpit or lectern, may benefit both clergy and congregation.

Sharp, William L. "Meter and Oral Interpretation." Western Speech, 23 (Winter 1959), 26-31. Much reading from lectern or pulpit is poetical in form, but may not be treated as such. Sharp's plea for observation of the conventions of poetic meter, though cast in a secular context, is useful.

Religious Source Materials

Asquith, Glenn H. Preaching According to Plan. Valley Forge: the Judson Press, 1968. Citing the inherent difficulties of doing manuscript reading well, Asquith eschews its use except for certain cases which he lists.


Barth, Karl. Trans. by B. E. Hooke. The Preaching of the Gospel. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963. Fifty pages devoted to characteristics of preaching, twenty to sermon preparation, and ten to the manuscript of one of his sermons. Brief, but significant points made. A sermon must be written. Only a sermon in which every word can be justified may be said to be a sacramental action.


Broadus, John A. On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons. Rev. Ed. NY:
this classic has never totally disappeared. It is thorough and scholarly.

Portions of the Bible have been excerpted and organized, with "brief
introductions to the selections and...critical and explanatory notes...written
in order to clarify the reading."

Craddock, Fred B. Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985. This is an
interesting, practical textbook. Chapters on preparation and delivery
describe the values of writing prior to the pulpit and explore ways to handle
notes and manuscripts in the pulpit. There is a brief annotated bibliography.

Cunningham, Elizabeth T. Suggestions and Audio-visual Aids for Reading the

Davis discusses in detail the differences between oral and literary styles,
stressing that a sermon must be in oral style.

1982. Edwards flatly denounces reading from the pulpit, but allows judicious
use of a manuscript when glanced at as notes.

Eggold prefers to avoid the use of a manuscript, no matter what ultimately
becomes the delivery style. Standard pro-and-con arguments relevant to
reading a sermon in the pulpit, various methods put in perspective, and a
manuscript-outline-notes-thorough rehearsal-no notes delivery preferred.

This book presents "innovative techniques and fresh forms" in preaching, e.g.,
dramatic monologue, dialogical, and media-augmented sermons. Much practical
advice on the value of a manuscript in preparation and delivery of a sermon.

Freshley, Dwight L. "The Theory of Communication in Preaching," Journal of
Communication, IX (June 1959), 59-67.

Hunsinger, Paul. A Study of the Oral Interpretation of the King James Version
of the Bible as the Scripture Lesson in the Sunday Morning Worship Services of
University, 1951. Various types of prose and poetry which comprise the Bible
are carefully delineated. Helpful tips are given for oral treatment of each.

Jones, Ilion T. Principles and Practice of Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon,
1956. Chapter on style gives detailed and practical advice for achieving an
effective approach to preaching. Chapter on delivery gives a brief history of
manuscript preaching, along with cautions and tips. Extensive book lists.

1985. (Paperback) Oral and written styles are contrasted. The preacher is
urged to write out the entire sermon, no matter how it is to be delivered.
Arguments for and against reading sermons are given.

Gray lectures at Duke Divinity School. Dilemma posed: thorough preparation
versus immediate relevance. Value of use of a manuscript questioned.


Lantz, J. Edward. Reading the Bible Aloud. NY: The Macmillan Company, 1959. Much attention is given to analysis of sections of the Bible and categorization of various portions, so that each may be approached most effectively. Helpful advice is given for actual preparation and delivery.


Marsh, Thomas H. "Some Problems of Oral Bible Reading." The Quarterly Journal of Speech, 23 (February 1937), 396-403. Marsh lists six elements concerning public Bible reading, several of which are also relevant to manuscript preaching, including the admonition against the "ministerial tone/twang."


Stevenson, Dwight E. and Charles F. Diehl. Reaching People from the Pulpit. NY: Harper and Row, 1959. This practical book contains many examples, illustrations, suggestions, remedial ideas, and even rating sheets for the use of clergy. Detailed steps are included for both preaching and reading.


Classical Collections of Sermons
