

3. In the second section, we have been listening closely and intentionally to sermons by noted preachers to appreciate their style and form as we begin to find our own voice and style for preaching. How did this exercise strike you and what would you hope to gain from it? In the third section, each class member will preach to peer evaluation.

Kris: Listening to sermons by experienced and gifted preachers has been incredibly insightful. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, for example, has a way of bringing scripture to life with passion, storytelling, and a deep sense of connection to both history and present-day struggles. His ability to convey the love of God in a way that is both inspiring and accessible is something I greatly admire. This exercise has challenged me to reflect on my own preaching style—how I communicate, how I engage my audience, and how I bring my authentic voice to the message God has placed on my heart. I hope to continue developing a style that is both scripturally sound and personally resonant, allowing me to reach people in a meaningful way.

4. Our class is led by priests from the Diocese who are committed to the aims of the course. They teach and guide us in tandem with the twelve month course for lay preachers developed by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation (EPF). There is a lot of weekly homework as part of the EPF curriculum. What are some things you have appreciated from being registered in the EPF course?

Kris: The EPF course has been both rigorous and enriching. One of the things I appreciate most is the structured approach to sermon preparation—it has helped me move from simply sharing a message to crafting a well-developed sermon that resonates with both heart and mind. The feedback and peer discussions have also been invaluable. Engaging with fellow lay preachers and hearing different perspectives has expanded my understanding of how scripture can be interpreted and preached in diverse ways. This has given me a deeper appreciation for the power of the spoken Word and how it can be applied to different contexts.

5. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about your involvement in the LLM lay preaching course?

Kris: This course has affirmed my calling to proclaim God's Word and has provided me with tools to do so with greater confidence and clarity. It has also been a deeply spiritual journey, strengthening my personal faith and deepening my connection to scripture. I am excited to see where this path leads and how I can continue to serve my church and community through preaching. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to using what I have learned to uplift and inspire others.