

Summary

My thesis deals with the relation between sermons and the listeners' situation; focus is given to specific pandemic situation of COVID-19 and how this situation was manifested in the sermons of the preachers of The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. The thesis is divided into two parts: theoretical and practical. In the theoretical part function and versatility of sermons is described and possible typological divisions of sermons are presented. It also concerns the relation between sermon, preacher, listener and his situation. Brief overview of development of homiletical approach to listener and his situation in the fundamental stages of homiletics is presented. Influence of listener's situation on preaching and choice of the Bible text is examined; pastoral aspects of preaching are presented. The practical part contains brief presentation of the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Czech Republic, focus is given mainly on the first phase and the impact on religious life and churches in the Czech Republic. Four sermons from The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren from the period of the pandemic are reflected and analysed as well as the impact of the situation on the form and features of the sermons. The central theme is the analysis of the preachers' reflection of the pandemic and the epidemiological situation, the way they presented it, the choice of the biblical text in the sermon. The consideration of listeners' situation and the message given to the sermons is reflected.

Keywords

Sermons, preacher, homiletics, COVID-19 pandemic, reflection on pandemic, analysis of sermons, The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, listener in church, listener's situation, pastoral aspect of sermons, Mark 4:23–41, John 20:19–29.