

SCHOOL OF THE WORD
PROPHETS
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Prophets 5

Programme

- What's a "prophet"? Oct 11
- Amos: Justice (i) Oct 18
- Amos: Justice (ii) Oct 25
- Who is/are Isaiah? Nov 8
- Isaiah and justice Nov 15
- **Isaiah and liberation** **Nov 22**
- Isaiah and hope Nov 29
- Isaiah: New Testament Dec 6

Sequence

- Isaiah in the readings
- The story so far...
- **In Advent**
- **In Holy Week**
- **In the Easter Vigil**
- Conversation

Isaiah in the readings

- John the Baptist (voice crying)
- Gospel (in the special sense)
- Suffering of Jesus
- There's much more...

FIRST ISAIAH

Isa 1:9 As Sodom and Gomorrah (Rom 9:29)
 Isa 6:9 Closed eyes and ears (Mt 13:14, Mk 4:12, Lk 8:10, Jn 12:39, Acts 28:25)
 Isa 7:14 Virgin with child (Mt 1:23)
 Isa 8:12 Do not be in fear (1Pet 3:14)
 Isa 8:14 Stone of stumbling (1Pet 2:8, Rom 9:33)
 Isa 8:17-18 The children God has given me (Heb 2:13)
 Isa 9:1 A light in darkness (Mt 4:15)
 Isa 9:6 A child shall be born (Mt 1:23)
 Isa 10:22 Remnant shall be saved (Rom 9:27)
 Isa 11:5 A belt girding the loins (Eph 6:14)
 Isa 11:10 The Root of Jesse (Rom 15:12)
 Isa 22:13 Tomorrow we may die (1Cor 15:32)

Isa 22:22 The key of David (Rev 3:7)
 Isa 25:8 **Death swallowed up** (1Cor 15:54)
 Isa 27:9 When I forgive their sins (Rom 11:26)
 Isa 28:11 Speak in strange tongues (1Cor 14:21)
 Isa 28:16 Precious corner stone (1Pet 2:6, Rom 9:33)
 Isa 28:16 Believers not disappointed (Rom 9:33, 10:11)
 Isa 29:10 A spirit of stupor (Rom 11:8)
 Isa 29:13 They worship in vain (Mt 15:7, Mk 7:6)
 Isa 29:14 The wisdom of the wise (1Cor 1:19)
 Isa 29:16 Potter and the clay (Rom 9:19-21)
 Isa 40:3 Voice in wilderness (Mt 3:3, Mk 1:2, Lk 3:4, Jn 1:23)

SECOND ISAIAH

Isa 40:6 God's word abides forever (1Pet 1:25)
 Isa 40:13 The mind of the LORD (Rom 11:34)
 Isa 42:1 Behold My Servant (Mt 12:18)
 Isa 42:4 Hope for Gentiles (Rom 15:12)
 Isa 42:6 A light for the Gentiles (Lk 2:32)
 Isa 45:23 Every knee shall bow (Rom 14:11)
 Isa 49:6 A light for the Gentiles (Lk 2:32, Acts 13:47)
 Isa 49:8 Acceptable time, day of salvation (2Cor 6:2)
 Isa 52:5 Blasphemy among Gentiles (Rom 2:24)
 Isa 52:7 How beautiful the feet (Rom 10:15)
 Isa 52:11 Come out from among them (2Cor 6:17)
 Isa 52:15 They shall understand (Rom 15:21)

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our report? (Jn 12:38, Rom 10:16)
 Isa 53:4 Carried our diseases (Mt 8:17)
 Isa 53:5 By his stripes you were healed (1Pet 2:24)
 Isa 53:7 A lamb to the slaughter (Acts 8:32)
 Isa 53:9 He committed no sin (1Pet 2:22)
 Isa 53:12 Numbered with transgressors (Mk 15:28, Lk 22:37)
 Isa 54:1 Rejoice barren woman (Gal 4:27)
 Isa 54:13 All be taught of God (Jn 6:45)
 Isa 55:3 The sure mercies of David (Acts 13:34)

THIRD ISAIAH

Isa 56:7 A house of prayer (Mt 21:13, Mk 11:17, Lk 19:46)
 Isa 59:7-8 Feet swift to shed blood (Rom 3:15-17)
 Isa 59:17 Breastplate and helmet (Eph 6:14-17)
 Isa 59:20 Deliverer from Zion (Rom 11:26)
 Isa 61:1 He anointed me to preach (Lk 4:17)

Isa 64:4 Eye has not seen (1Cor 2:9)
 Isa 65:1 Found by those who sought me not (Rom 10:20)
 Isa 65:2 Disobedient and obstinate people (Rom 10:21)
 Isa 66:1 Heaven is my throne (Acts 7:48)
 Isa 66:24 Fire is not quenched (Mk 9:48)

Isaiah in the Readings

A (Matthew)	B (Mark)	C (Luke)
27	21	18
Advent, Christmas, Holy Week Easter Vigil, Ordinary Time <i>I.e. never in Lent and Eastertide</i>		
2017	2018	2019

Isaiah in the Sunday Readings of Advent

Advent	A (Matthew)	B (Mark)	C (Luke)
1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Isaiah 63:16b-17, 64:1, 3-8	Jer 33:14-16
2	Isaiah 11:1-10	Isa 40:1-5, 9-11	Bar 5:1-9
3	Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10	Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11	Zeph 3:14-18a
4	Isaiah 7:10-14	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	Mic 5:2-5a

Isaiah in the daily Readings of Advent

	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4
Mon	Isaiah 2:1-5	Is 35:1-10	Jer 23:5-8	Christmas Day
Tue	Is 11:1-10	Is 40:1-11	Judg 13:2-7, 24-25	
Wed	Is 25:6-10	Is 40:25-31	Is 7:10-14	
Thurs	Is 26:1-6	Is 41:13-20	Song 2:8-14	
Fri	(Is 29:17-24)	Is 48:17-19	1 Sam 1:24-28	
Sat	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26	Eccl 48:1-4, 9-12	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24	

The story so far...

- Isaiah "of Jerusalem" - 8th century bc prophet
- Second Isaiah - just before the Exile ended
- Third Isaiah - written after the return
- Each Isaiah was a religious genius and a great poet
- Second Isaiah as a whole
 - Recall and return: 46:8; 44:22; 51:11; 52:8; 55:7, 10
 - Good news: 40:9, 52:7
 - Joy: 42:11; 48:20; 49:13; 51:3, 11; 52:8; 55:12; 56:7
- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Notice the imagery
- Make connections with the New Testament

40:1–11:	Yahweh Speaks Good News to Israel
40:12–31:	Strength for an Exhausted People
41:1–42:9:	Judgment in Favour of Israel
42:10–43:8:	The Divine Warrior Removes the Obstacles to His People's Return
43:9–44:5:	Israel Raised Up to Be a Witness to Yahweh
44:6–23:	Israel, a Witness to Their Maker
44:24–45:13:	Yahweh Appoints Cyrus King
45:14–25:	Yahweh Will Not Leave Zion in Ruins
46:	Yahweh Carries His People to His City
47:	The Humbling and Destruction of Dame Babylon
48:	Exhortation to Be Open to the Prophet's Interpreting Word
49:	The Servant Performs His Task in the Sight of the Nations
50:1–51:8:	The Light That Follows Punishing Darkness
51:9–52:12:	A Prayer That Yahweh Destroy the Foe and Bring His People to Zion
52:13–53:12:	The Many Confess That Yahweh Upholds His Servant
54:	Zion, the Secure City of Yahweh
55:	Come into the Life-giving Presence of Yahweh!

Isaiah 40:1-11

- Isa 40:1** "Comfort, comfort my people,"
says your God.
- 2** "Speak kindly to Jerusalem, and tell her
that her time of warfare is over,
that her punishment is completed.
For the LORD has made her pay double for all her sins."
- 3** A voice cries out,
"In the wilderness clear a way for the LORD;
construct in the desert a road for our God.
- 4** Every valley must be elevated,
and every mountain and hill levelled.
The rough terrain will become a level plain,
the rugged landscape a wide valley.
- 5** The splendour of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it at the same time.
For the LORD has decreed it."
- 6** A voice says, "Cry out!"
Another asks, "What should I cry out?"
The first voice responds: "All people are like grass,
and all their promises are like the flowers in the field.
- 7** The grass dries up,
the flowers wither,
when the wind sent by the LORD blows on them.
Surely humanity is like grass.
- 8** The grass dries up,
the flowers wither,
but the decree of our God is forever reliable."
- 9** Go up on a high mountain, O herald Zion!
Shout out loudly, O herald Jerusalem!
Shout, don't be afraid!
Say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
- 10** Look, the sovereign LORD comes as a victorious warrior;
his military power establishes his rule.
Look, his reward is with him;
his prize goes before him.
- 11** Like a shepherd he tends his flock;
he gathers up the lambs with his arm;
he carries them close to his heart;
he leads the ewes along.

Isaiah in Holy Week

- Isaiah also contains the mysterious "Suffering Servant Songs"
- First servant passage (Isa 42: 1- 4)
- Second servant passage (Isa 49: 1- 6)
- Third servant passage (Isa 50: 4- 9)
- Fourth servant passage (Isa 52: 13 – 53: 12)

Palm Sunday	Monday of HW	Tuesday of HW	Wednesday of HW	Good Friday
Is 50:4-7	Is 42:1-7	Is 49:1-6	Is 50:4-9	Is 52:13-53:12
3rd Song	1st Song	2nd Song	3rd Song	4th Song
Mt 5:39; 26:67; 27:30; Mk 10:34	Mt 3:17; Lk 3:22; 9:35; 23:35; Mt 12:18-21	Lk 2:23	Mt 5:39; 26:67; 27:30; Mk 10:34	

Fourth Song

Isaiah 52:13-53:13

52:15	Mt 13:16.
53:3	Mk 9:12
53:4	Mt 8:17
53:7	Mt 27:12; Mk 14:49, 61, Jn 1:29
53:10f.	Mt 28:28; Mk 10:45
53:11f.	Mk 14:24
53:12	Mt 12:29; 26:28; 27:38; Mk 15:27; Lk 11:22; 22:37; 23:34.

Isaiah 42:107

Isa 42:1 "Here is my servant whom I support,
my chosen one in whom I take pleasure.
I have placed my spirit on him;
he will make just decrees for the nations.
2 He will not cry out or shout;
he will not publicize himself in the streets.
3 A crushed reed he will not break,
a dim wick he will not extinguish;
he will faithfully make just decrees.
4 He will not grow dim or be crushed
before establishing justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait in anticipation for his decrees."
5 This is what the true God, the LORD, says—
the one who created the sky and stretched it out,
the one who fashioned the earth and everything that lives on it,
the one who gives breath to the people on it,
and life to those who live on it:
6 "I, the LORD, officially commission you;
I take hold of your hand.
I protect you and make you a covenant mediator for people,
and a light to the nations,
7 to open blind eyes,
to release prisoners from dungeons,
those who live in darkness from prisons."

Isaiah in the Easter Vigil

Reading 4: Isaiah 54:5-14

Reading 5: Isaiah 55:1-11

Response to Reading 5: Isaiah 12

Notice the imagery

Make connections with the New Testament

Group 1

- Isa 54:1** "Shout for joy, O barren one who has not given birth!
Give a joyful shout and cry out, you who have not been in labour!
For the children of the desolate one are more numerous
than the children of the married woman," says the LORD.
- 2** Make your tent larger,
stretch your tent curtains farther out!
Spare no effort,
lengthen your ropes,
and pound your stakes deep.
- 3** For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your children will conquer nations
and will resettle desolate cities.
- 4** Don't be afraid, for you will not be put to shame!
Don't be intimidated, for you will not be humiliated!
You will forget about the shame you experienced in your youth;
you will no longer remember the disgrace of your abandonment.
- 5** For your husband is the one who made you—
the LORD who commands armies is his name.
He is your protector, the Holy One of Israel.
He is called "God of the entire earth."
- 6** "Indeed, the LORD will call you back
like a wife who has been abandoned and suffers from depression,
like a young wife when she has been rejected," says your God.
- 7** "For a short time I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
- 8** In a burst of anger I rejected you momentarily,
but with lasting devotion I will have compassion on you,"
says your protector, the LORD.

Group 2

- 9** "As far as I am concerned, this is like in Noah's time,
when I vowed that the waters of Noah's flood would never again cover the earth.
In the same way I have vowed that I will not be angry at you or shout at you.
- 10** Even if the mountains are removed
and the hills displaced,
my devotion will not be removed from you,
nor will my covenant of friendship be displaced,"
says the LORD, the one who has compassion on you.
- 11** "O afflicted one, driven away, and unconsolated!
Look, I am about to set your stones in antimony
and I lay your foundation with lapis-lazuli.
- 12** I will make your pinnacles out of gems,
your gates out of beryl,
and your outer wall out of beautiful stones.
- 13** All your children will be followers of the LORD,
and your children will enjoy great prosperity.
- 14** You will be re-established when I vindicate you.
You will not experience oppression;
indeed, you will not be afraid.
You will not be terrified,
for nothing frightening will come near you.
- 15** If anyone dares to challenge you, it will not be my doing!
Whoever tries to challenge you will be defeated.
- 16** Look, I create the craftsman,
who fans the coals into a fire
and forges a weapon.
I create the destroyer so he might devastate.
- 17** No weapon forged to be used against you will succeed;
you will refute everyone who tries to accuse you.
This is what the LORD will do for his servants—
I will vindicate them,"
says the LORD.

Group 3

- Isa 55:1** "Hey, all who are thirsty, come to the water!
 You who have no money, come!
 Buy and eat!
 Come! Buy wine and milk
 without money and without cost!
- 2** Why pay money for something that will not nourish you?
 Why spend your hard-earned money on something that will not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me and eat what is nourishing!
 Enjoy fine food!
- 3** Pay attention and come to me!
 Listen, so you can live!
 Then I will make an unconditional covenantal promise to you,
 just like the reliable covenantal promises I made to David.
- 4** Look, I made him a witness to nations,
 a ruler and commander of nations."
- 5** Look, you will summon nations you did not previously know;
 nations that did not previously know you will run to you,
 because of the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel,
 for he bestows honour on you.
- 6** Seek the LORD while he makes himself available;
 call to him while he is nearby!
- 7** The wicked need to abandon their lifestyle
 and sinful people their plans.
 They should return to the LORD, and he will show mercy to them,
 and to their God, for he will freely forgive them.
- 8** "Indeed, my plans are not like your plans,
 and my deeds are not like your deeds,
 for just as the sky is higher than the earth,
 so my deeds are superior to your deeds
 and my plans superior to your plans.

Group 4

- 10** The rain and snow fall from the sky
 and do not return,
 but instead water the earth
 and make it produce and yield crops,
 and provide seed for the planter and food for those who must eat.
- 11** In the same way, the promise that I make
 does not return to me, having accomplished nothing.
 No, it is realized as I desire
 and is fulfilled as I intend."
- 12** Indeed you will go out with joy;
 you will be led along in peace;
 the mountains and hills will give a joyful shout before you,
 and all the trees in the field will clap their hands.
- 13** Evergreens will grow in place of thorn bushes,
 firs will grow in place of nettles;
 they will be a monument to the LORD,
 a permanent reminder that will remain.

Conversation