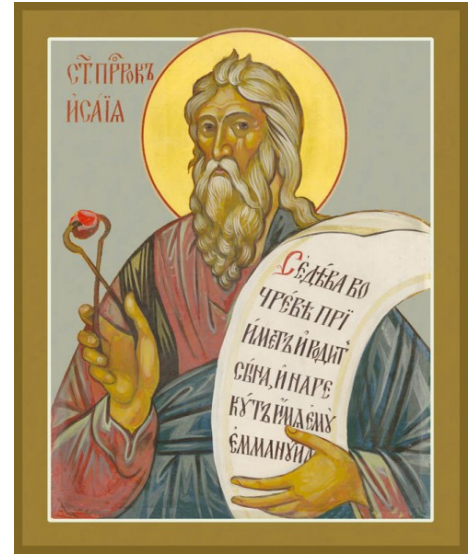


ISAIAH

Prophet of Israel

Feast Day: none

Collect: (Collect for Social Justice) Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Facts:

- The Book of Isaiah in the Hebrew Scriptures is actually a composite of 3 books
 - First Isaiah, ch. 1-39
 - Second Isaiah/Deutero-Isaiah, ch. 40-55
 - Third Isaiah/Trito-Isaiah, ch. 56-66
- First Isaiah: 8th century BCE Judean prophet whose name the book bears
- Second Isaiah: Unknown prophet who lived in Babylon during the Babylonian exile of the 6th century BCE
- Third Isaiah: Prophet or prophets who lived in Judah after the return from Babylonian exile in 539 BCE
- Prophet names himself in Chapter 1 as Isaiah son of Amoz, who began prophesying in the year of King Uzziah's death, which would be 738 BCE
- Written through various periods of war between Israel and other nations, exile
- Isaiah's wife may have been a prophet as well

Spiritual/Theological Teachings & Legacy

- Despite multiple authorship, the book does contain thematic unity
- Like most prophetic works, it moves from oracles of judgment to those of salvation
- Isaiah is a major source of supersessionist theology (which, remember, is a double-edged sword, can be good and bad), which is why he is used heavily in Advent
- Isaiah 7:14: "A virgin/young woman shall conceive"
- Isaiah 40:1-11: "Comfort ye, my people": describes the Kingdom with the coming of the Messiah (Advent 2, Year B)
- Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me": Jesus quotes this at the opening of his public ministry, reading from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue (Advent 3, Year B)
- Isaiah 6:1-8: origins of the Sanctus
- Suffering Servant Songs: seen as a presaging of Jesus
 - Isaiah 42:1-9 (Monday in Holy Week)
 - Isaiah 49:1-6 (Tuesday in Holy Week)
 - Isaiah 50:4-9 (Wednesday in Holy Week)
 - Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (Good Friday)

Questions Raised by Life & Work

- How do we relate to prophecy in the Bible? What is prophecy? Do we interpret all Hebrew scripture prophecy in relationship to Jesus? What are the implications if we don't? What are the implications if we do?
- What do we make of the idea of collective guilt/sin and collective redemption? How do we reconcile that with the deeply individualist understanding of salvation in modern Christianity? For Isaiah, salvation meant political freedom, safety and peace for the nation of Israel. How is that different from our understanding of salvation?
- What is the difference between salvation and deliverance? Is there a difference? How are they related?

My notes/observations/questions/prayer topics: