THE PROPHET ISAIAH IN ADVENT

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OUTLINE OF SESSION

- The Rhythm of Advent
  - Immediate Preparation: Dec. 17th – 24th

- Reading on 20th Dec.: Isaiah 7:10-14
  - Historical Background
  - Interpretation on Two Different Levels
  - Contemporary significance
IMMEDIATE PREPARATION
DECEMBER 17\textsuperscript{th} – 24\textsuperscript{th}

- Historical reason
  - Christian Gaul & Spain
  - Preparation for Epiphany
  - Baptism

- Akin to Holy Week

- Series of Wonderful Births

- OT & NT: Prophecy & Fulfilment
ISAIAH 7:10-14

- Historical Background
- Description of King Ahaz in 2 Kings 16
- Description of King Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18
ISAIAH 7:10-14

- “Ask for a sign….”
  - A revelation from God
  - Reassurance of God’s presence
  - Ahaz refuses – out of piety?
  - Isaiah gives a prophecy

- King is addressed as “House of David”
  - Cf. Heir to promises made to David (2 Sam 7)
  - God’s blessing on Judah & on God’s people
  - Messianic prophecy
ISAIAH 7:10-14

- "The maiden is with child…"
  - Encouragement
  - Continuation of Davidic dynasty
  - God of solidarity

- The maiden:
  - Almah
  - Betulah
  - Parthenos (LXX)
SECOND LEVEL OF MEANING

- Mt 1:22-23 applies Is 7:14 to the birth of Jesus

- Cf. also: Mt 18:20 & Mt 28:20
Dec 20th: THE ANNUNCIATION

- Lk 1:26-38
  - Fulfilment of prophecy

- Implications beyond Isaiah’s wildest dreams
“Look at the humility of God…..Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, so that He who gives Himself totally to you, may receive you totally.”