

# JESUS THE PROPHET\*

*Jesus is the ultimate proclaimer of God's truth. His sermons and life are God's Word to us.*

## SCRIPTURE†

**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

**Matthew 13:54-58**

**Matthew 24**

Luke 4:16-21

**Luke 13:31-35**

**Luke 21:5-38**

**Acts 3:22-26**

**Hebrews 1:1-4**

## MUSIC‡

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

**Come to the Light (Koerts) SATB**

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come, Thou Almighty King

**God and Father, We Adore Thee (Forrest) SATB**

How Firm a Foundation

**Jesus Is My Song of Grace (Martin) SATB**

O Word of God Incarnate

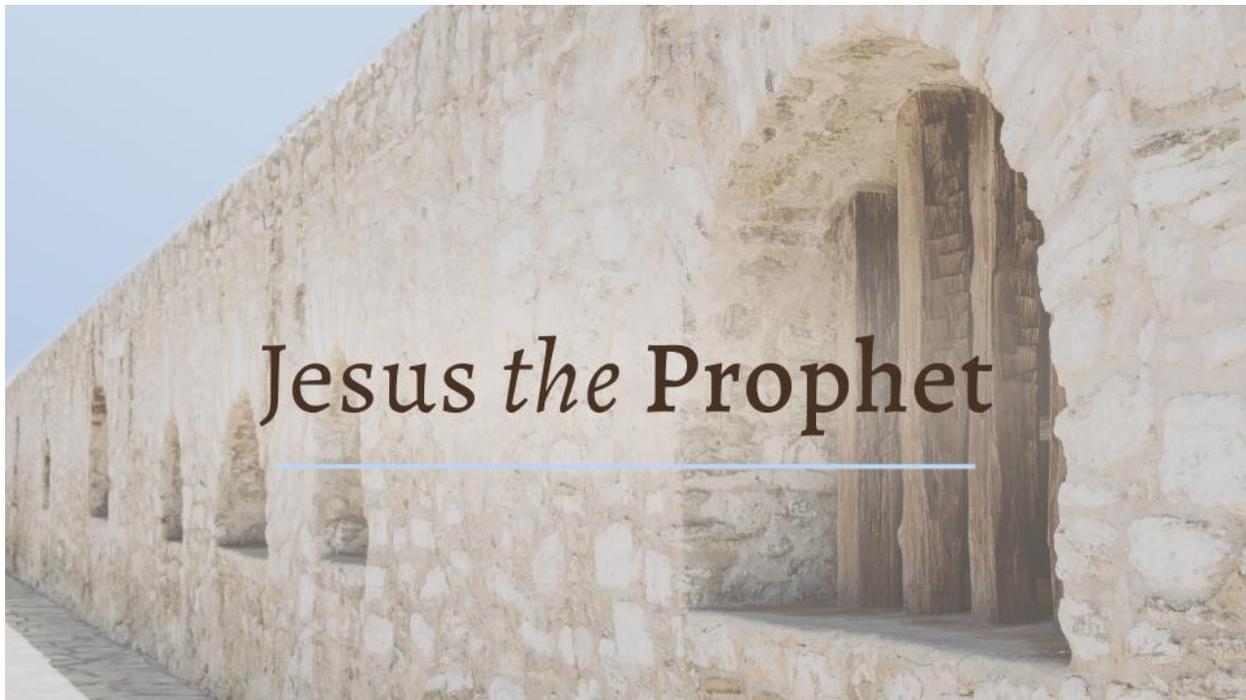
Open Our Eyes, Lord

See the Christ

Speak, O Lord

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

**When Love Came Down to Earth (Shackley) SATB**



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* Theme fits in **Ministry of Christ** series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## PROPHETIC PREACHING

**Matthew 23:13-39** | *In contrast to last week's theme "the friend of sinners" (those who acknowledge their sin and repent), today we look at Jesus as prophet, the one who judges the self-righteous. Prophecy is different than teaching in its tone: it warns of judgment to come. A parent can speak like a prophet, warning a child that their actions will result in consequences. Jesus' words aren't all kindness and love. Jesus speaks the truth to the Pharisees; He knew what they needed to hear. A prophet declares what God will do, but Jesus spoke with extra authority because He is God.*

**Promotional Post:** We can easily have a one-sided perception of Jesus' manner on earth. While He was kind, meek, and gentle, His words and methods could be fierce! Jesus filled the role of Prophet perfectly, calling out the evils of the religious leaders who challenged Him.

Join us Sunday to hear and heed His words of ultimate authority. Come to worship Jesus, the Prophet! These readings can help you prepare:

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## THE PREACHER WHO WAS A SERMON

*The "office" of prophet was well established in the Old Testament. Men spoke for God and proclaimed His words: "thus saith the Lord." Jesus did have a preaching office on this earth; but more fundamentally, He was and is the best one to speak to man for God because He is God. His appearance on this earth was itself the "Message" and "Sermon" of God. He was the Preacher Who was a Sermon. His was the most "direct mouthpiece" because He is God. His whole life shouted out, "Behold the ultimate Prophet!"*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

As we read through the Old Testament accounts of the prophets, we meet some amazing servants of God. Let's look at just one of them for a moment: Elijah. He was mightily used by God to perform miracles, such as providing a continuous supply of grain and oil for a widow during a time of famine and later raising the widow's son from the dead. God also tasked Elijah with proclaiming His Word. Over and over in the description of Elijah's ministry, we see God speaking to the prophet and then Elijah faithfully repeating God's message to the intended audience. In fact, most of the prophets' statements throughout the Old Testament are prefaced by phrases such as "thus saith the Lord," or "hear the word of the Lord." No true prophet spoke for himself; he acted as God's representative, declaring the message that God gave him.

When we study the ministry of Jesus Christ, then, we should recognize the importance of the fact that Jesus did not need to introduce His teaching as the Word of God. He simply spoke. And His message was powerful! The Gospels describe His doctrine as being marked by authority, in contrast to the other teachers of the day. Jesus' role as a Prophet included declaring God's Word to His audience, just like Elijah and the other Old Testament prophets did, but it didn't stop there. Because Jesus is God Himself, He was a Prophet like none other. He not only spoke God's message; He was Himself God's message. John puts it this way: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This same Word "was made flesh and dwelt among us." Only Jesus, the Word incarnate, possesses the authority to speak for the Father on His own merits. Only Jesus is the Prophet Who is also the Son and heir, God's mouthpiece to us in these last days (Hebrews 1). Today, we ought to thank Him for giving us God's truth, for perfectly executing His role as both God's messenger and God's message. And we ought to allow His message to change us, praying along with the writer of Hebrews that we would "give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." (Amy Tilson)