

Isaiah 60 in Croatian Church Slavonic Breviaries: A Textological and Diachronic Analysis

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah in Croatian Church Slavonic sources represents a largely unexplored area of textological research, despite being preserved in at least forty different liturgical books, with approximately 45% of the book attested across the corpus. This presentation focuses on Isaiah 60 and offers a systematic comparison of all fifteen breviary translations of the chapter identified within the corpus.

The translations will be compared with one another and against three key reference points: the Prophetologion (a liturgical book of Eastern Christianity whose older copies closely reflect the state of Old Church Slavonic texts), the Septuagint, and the Vulgate. The analysis aims to establish the degree of textual variation among the translations and to determine whether they can be grouped into distinct genealogical clusters, either aligning with or cutting across the traditional north–south division, a division which reflects not only spontaneous textual divergence but also deliberate language change.

One of the key questions is whether the breviary translations of Isaiah 60 derive from an Old Church Slavonic archetype attested in some form in the Prophetologion tradition, or whether they represent independent re-translations. Closely related is the question of source language: whether the Croatian Church Slavonic text was translated from a Greek or a Latin Vorlage.

The presentation will simultaneously highlight examples of lexical substitution and change from Old Church Slavonic to Croatian Church Slavonic, as well as borrowings from Greek and Latin.

The results will be set against the findings of a previous analysis of Isaiah 55, allowing for broader conclusions about the transmission and translation practice of prophetic texts in the Croatian Glagolitic breviary tradition.

Keywords: Croatian Church Slavonic, Croatian Glagolitism, the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, textual criticism