

3

The Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly  
and to give them the oil of gladness.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

61:1-3abcd, 6ab, 8c-9

**T**he Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,  
to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
and release to the prisoners,  
To announce a year of favor from the LORD  
and a day of vindication by our God,  
to comfort all who mourn;  
To place on those who mourn in Zion  
a diadem instead of ashes,  
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,  
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.  
You yourselves shall be named priests of the LORD,  
ministers of our God you shall be called.  
I will give them their recompense faithfully,  
a lasting covenant I will make with them.  
Their descendants shall be renowned among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
All who see them shall acknowledge them  
as a race the LORD has blessed.

The word of the Lord.