

## Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

*The Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor and to give them the oil of gladness.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,  
a day of vengeance for our God,

<sup>3</sup> to comfort all those who mourn  
and to give them for ashes a garland;  
for mourning robe the oil of gladness,  
for despondency, praise.

<sup>6</sup> But you, you will be named 'priests of the Lord',  
they will call you 'ministers of our God'.

I reward them faithfully

<sup>8</sup> and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their race will be famous throughout the nations,  
their descendants throughout the peoples.

All who see them will admit

that they are a race whom the Lord has blessed.

The word of the Lord.