

# Liturgy for the Blessing of the Oils

## Greeting

*Archbishop:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*The Archbishop may wish to make some introductory comment  
after the greeting and prior to the Gathering Hymn.*

**Hymn** "Holy Spirit, Come with Power"  
*(#643, Common Praise 1998)*

Holy Spirit, come with power,  
breathe into our aching night.  
We expect you this glad hour,  
waiting for your strength and light.  
We are fearful, we are ailing,  
we are weak and selfish, too.  
Break upon your congregation,  
give us vigour, life anew.

Holy Spirit, come with fire,  
burn us with your presence new.  
Let us as one mighty choir  
sing our hymn of praise to you.  
Burn away our wasted sadness  
and enflame us with your love.  
Burst upon your congregation,  
give us gladness from above.

Holy Spirit, bring your message,  
burn and breathe each word anew  
deep into our tired living  
till we strive your work to do.  
Teach us love and trusting kindness,  
lead our hands to those who hurt.  
Breathe upon your congregation  
and inspire us with your word.

### **Collect of the Day**

*Archbishop:* Heavenly Father

you anointed your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit and with power  
to bring the good news of your kingdom.  
Anoint your church with the same Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in his suffering and his victory  
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

### **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**First Reading**      *Isaiah 61.1-3*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

**Psalm**

*Psalm 89.19-29*

*The people pray the lines printed in bold.*

You spoke once in a vision  
and said to your faithful people: \*  
“I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.  
**I have found David my servant; \***  
**with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.  
**No enemy shall deceive him, \***  
**nor any wicked one bring him down.**

I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.  
**My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \***  
**and he shall be victorious through my name.**

I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.  
**He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'**

I will make him my firstborn \*  
and higher than the rulers of the earth.  
**I will keep my love for him for ever, \*  
and my covenant will stand firm for him.**

I will establish his line for ever \*  
and his throne as the days of heaven.”

**Gospel Proclamation**      *Luke 4.16-21*

*Gospeller:*    The Holy Gospel...according to Luke.

*People:*        **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*Gospeller:* The Gospel of Christ.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn**

"We Cannot Measure How You Heal"

*(Hymn #292, Common Praise 1998)*

We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain,  
and make your broken people whole.

## **INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING**

*Intercessor:*

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to God's self,  
and has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation.  
That we may live no longer for ourselves,  
but for the One who was anointed to give his life for us,  
let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord hear our prayer."

Let us pray the fragrance of the Spirit  
will be savored throughout the earth. *(silence)*  
That by our prayer and practice,  
Christ's people may demonstrate  
God's power to reconcile and make all things new,  
we pray to the Lord: "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

Let us pray for those who lead nations and communities,  
especially during this time of pandemic. *(silence)*  
That those called upon to inspire and inform,  
contend with difficult decisions and offer comfort,  
may be anointed with the spirit of wisdom and courage,  
we pray to the Lord: "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

Let us pray for the sick and the suffering,  
for victims of poverty and violence,  
for those who live on the margins of society,  
and particularly for all afflicted with the COVID-19 virus.

*(silence)*

That all who await deliverance  
may be extravagantly anointed  
with the balm of divine compassion,  
we pray to the Lord: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

Let us pray for healthcare workers, first responders,  
retail workers, those who transport goods,  
journalists and reporters, sanitation workers, cleaners,  
and others who must place themselves at risk at this time  
for the wellbeing of others. *(silence)*

That God will be their protector and help,  
we pray to the Lord: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

Let us remember the dead. *(silence)*

And that we will continually recall the eternal faithfulness  
of the One who anoints us as children of God,  
we pray to the Lord: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

*The Archbishop concludes the Prayers of the People with the  
following Collect.*

O God, in Baptism you anoint us  
and seal us as your own forever.  
Give us grace to walk in newness of life,  
that your gifts of healing and reconciliation  
may be enjoyed by every race and nation.

We ask this through your anointed One,  
Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **BLESSING OF THE OILS**

*The Archbishop addresses the people in these or similar words:*

Dear Friends in Christ,  
In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the creation;  
and, throughout history, God, by the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
has empowered his people to serve his purposes for the world.

As a sign of that gift,  
the priests and kings of Israel were anointed with oil;  
and our Lord Jesus was himself anointed with the Holy Spirit  
at his Baptism as the Christ, God's own Messiah.

At Baptism,  
Christians are likewise anointed by that same Spirit  
to empower them for God's service.

Therefore, let us now set apart these oils  
to be signs of that anointing.  
With the perfumed chrism  
may all who are baptized,  
and congregations whose altars and churches are dedicated,  
bear the fragrance of the Holy Spirit,  
and may all anointed with this oil of the sick  
experience the compassion of Christ  
and his saving love.



Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Eternal Father,  
whose blessed Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit  
to be the Saviour and servant of all,  
we pray you to consecrate these oils,  
that those who in faith and repentance  
receive this holy unction may be made whole,  
and those who are sealed with this chrism  
may share in the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The rite then concludes in the usual way with the Bishop's blessing and the dismissal. If desired, announcements about the online services and other liturgical resources may be shared before the blessings and dismissal.*

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*Psalm text is from the Inclusive Language Psalter of The Anglican Church of Canada, available at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>*

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