

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to **proclaim the year of the Lord's favor** and the day of vengeance of our God, to **comfort all who mourn**, and **provide for those who grieve in Zion**— to bestow on them a **crown of beauty** instead of ashes, the **oil of joy** instead of mourning, and a **garment of praise** instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, **a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.**

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)