

Psalm 23:5b

“You Anoint Me!”

7<sup>th</sup> Midweek of Easter

May 27, 2020

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace from God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

**[Introduction]**

In the Book of Exodus, God commands Moses to anoint his brother Aaron.

***“You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests. And you shall say to the people of Israel, ‘This shall be my holy anointing oil throughout your generations’ (Ex 30:30–31).***

This anointing was done in public.

It was done in public for all the servants of the Lord to see.

And God had a specific recipe to use the best spices for this anointing.

Myrrh, cinnamon, a few more spices, and olive oil (Ex 30:22–29).

When these spices were mixed,

it made a sweet-smelling aroma in the presence of the Lord,  
and that which it touched — became holy.

King David, the shepherd boy, understood the value of the anointing by God,  
and that is why he wrote:

***“You [God, my faithful Shepherd] anoint my head with oil” (v 5b).***

You anoint my head with the oil of gladness

to be your servant and care for your sheep—the people of Israel.

You set me apart to be king over Israel

and point them to you, my God and Lord.

For you are the one to be praised and adored.

It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word translated “anoint”  
literally means “make fat.”

For anointing implies a few drops;

“making fat” implies a whole lot more,  
more than meets the eye,

more than what appears on the surface

or can be understood by human logic.

And it is so much more  
because it comes from the gracious hands of God himself—the faithful Shepherd.

Perhaps that is why John the evangelist writes:

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called children of God!”* (1 Jn 3:1).

This is no nickel-and-dime deity!  
He is a God who gives us more than we ask or imagine!

God in his divine wisdom had anointed certain people for certain tasks—  
Aaron and his sons as high priests;  
Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, and others as his prophets;  
Saul, David, Solomon, and others as kings over Israel.  
But they all failed to do the things God had called them to do.

It is by the grace of God that David was established as the king of Israel.  
We are told that the Lord chose David  
because he was a man after his own heart (1 Sam 13:14).

The Lord also promised that one of David’s sons would sit on David’s throne forever.  
The promise of God was on the condition that  
the people would be faithful to him.  
But David himself and the many kings that came after  
didn’t always do what the Lord commanded.  
Therefore, God cut them off the family tree  
and only a pitiful stump remained  
—the stump of Jesse.

**[*God Anointed Jesus*]**

Well, God is not a nickel-and-dime deity!  
He is a God who gives us more than we ask or imagine.  
Therefore, the Lord promised that there would be a new David,  
a king after his own heart, once again.

The Lord promised he would once again establish this new King,  
this new David, upon the throne.

A Messiah, the new David, the King of the Jews,  
the one who comes in the name of the Lord,  
a son of David—the Lord of David—Jesus Christ.

The new David, Jesus, was anointed not with oil, but with the Holy Spirit.  
There in the river Jordan, Jesus was baptized  
to be the missionary of God  
for the specific task of redeeming God's people  
from death and destruction.

He was anointed for the sole purpose  
of purchasing them with his own precious blood.

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit  
for three different offices—Prophet, Priest, and King.  
And He fulfilled all of these offices perfectly for us  
in his earthly life and in his perfect death and resurrection.  
**Christ is Risen! *He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!***

He was the Prophet who spoke God's Word faithfully.  
He was the High Priest who offered himself as the *ultimate sacrifice*.

He is the King of kings and Lord of lords who rules with justice and truth  
both in heaven and on earth.  
And one day, all people in the world will bow their knees  
and acknowledge him as the faithful Good Shepherd.

What David couldn't do—the new David did indeed do.  
He established his rule forever,  
and indeed, the throne is filled from everlasting to everlasting.  
His enemies have been clothed with shame,  
but on the Son of God the crown shines,  
and he has clothed us with  
his robe of righteousness  
and his garment of salvation.

David said, "You anoint my head with oil," and God kept his promise.

David couldn't atone for the sins of the Israelites.  
That was left to the offspring of David,  
Jesus the Christ, who became the true King who reigns forever!

Blessed is he who sits upon the throne; he is King from everlasting to everlasting!

Jesus fulfills these offices because  
he is the oil-splattered Savior,  
drenched in oil as God's Anointed One.

[*God Anoints You*]

But so are you.

Indeed, you have been anointed in your Baptism.

And this makes us kings and priests!

The Bible calls us "*royal priests*" (1 Pet 2:9)!

Therefore, today we join David in saying:

***"You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows"*** (Ps 23:5b).

And he has!

Our faithful Good Shepherd is not just any shepherd,

but the Shepherd-King,

who gives us more than nickel-and-dime blessings.

He gives us abundantly of his grace

—forgiveness of sins, salvation, and life everlasting.

Precious little lambs,

all you need to know is that your cup is overflowing.

Take time to see all of the blessings he has bestowed upon you.

And so, David's words *BECOME* our words:

***"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You Anoint My Head with Oil; My Cup Overflows."*** (Ps 23:1–5).

All I can say to that is ... amen and amen.

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As followers of Christ, "Keep loving one another earnestly  
And show hospitality to one another without grumbling." AMEN! (1 Pt 4:8-9)

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