

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 7 Prayer Service

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Heavenly Father, you use oil to anoint your people as priests, prophets, and kings. As we remember the priests, prophets, and kings of the past, strengthen us in our resolve to continue their mission today. Remind us of your unending love for us, and send your Holy Spirit to help us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reader 1: A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Samuel had Jesse and his sons purify themselves and invited them to the sacrifice. As they came, he looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the anointed is here before the LORD.”

But the LORD said to Samuel: Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”

Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he arrives here.”

Jesse had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking. The LORD said: There—anoint him, for this is the one!

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader 2: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him.

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming

upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Leader: Let us pray. GOD, THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, HAS FREED YOU FROM SIN, GIVEN YOU A NEW BIRTH BY WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND WELCOMED YOU INTO HIS HOLY PEOPLE. HE NOW ANOINTS YOU WITH THE CHRISM OF SALVATION. AS CHRIST WAS ANOINTED PRIEST, PROPHET, AND KING, SO MAY YOU LIVE ALWAYS AS A MEMBER OF HIS BODY, SHARING EVERLASTING LIFE. AMEN.

Leader: We will now renew our baptismal promises. If you have not been baptized, invite the Lord to make his presence known to you during this time of prayer. If you have been baptized, please respond to each question with, "I do."

Leader: Do you reject Satan?

Response: I do.

Leader: And all his works?

Response: I do.

Leader: And all his empty promises?

Response: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Response: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Response: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Response: I do.

Leader: God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

Response: Amen.

If possible, invite students to bless themselves with Holy Water at this time.

Leader: Let us pray. Our Father, who art in Heaven...

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.