Consecration of the Chrism

Paul Inwood

Bishop: Let us pray that God our almighty Father will bless this oil so that all who are anointed with it may be inwardly transformed and come to share in eternal salvation.

Organ

Cantor

Come, O Holy Spirit, come!

All

Come, O Holy Spirit, come!

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*See Composer Notes on page 11.
holiness, accept the joyful thanks and praise we offer in the name of your Church. In the

beginning, at your command, the earth produced fruit-bearing trees. From the fruit of the

olive tree you have provided us with oil for holy chrism. The prophet David sang of the

life and joy that the oil would bring us in the sacraments of your love.

Come, O Holy Spirit,

Come, O Holy Spirit,

Bishop: After the

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avenging flood, the dove returning to Noah with an olive branch announced your gift of peace. This was a sign of a greater gift to come. Now the waters of baptism wash away the sins of men, and by the anointing with olive oil you make us radiant with your joy.

Come, O Holy Spirit, come! Come, O Holy Spirit, come!

Bishop: At your command,
Aaron was washed with water, and your servant Moses, his brother, anointed him priest.

This too foreshadowed greater things to come. After your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, asked John for baptism in the waters of Jordan, you sent the Spirit upon him in the form of a dove and by the witness of your own voice you declared him to be your only, well-beloved Son. In this you clearly fulfilled the prophecy of David, that Christ would be anointed with the oil of gladness beyond his fellow men.
Come, O Holy Spirit, come!

Father, we ask you to bless this oil you have created. Fill it with the power of your Holy Spirit through Christ your Son. It is from him that chrism takes its name and with chrism you have anointed for yourself priests and kings, prophets and martyrs. Make this chrism a sign of

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life and salvation for those who are to be born again in the waters of baptism. Wash away the evil they have inherited from sinful Adam, and when they are anointed with this holy oil make them temples of your glory, radiant with the goodness of life that has its source in you.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

*Assembly continues to echo Cantor’s line.
Come, O Holy Spirit, come!

Bishop: Through this sign of chrism grant them royal, priestly, and prophetic honor, and clothe them with incorruption. Let this be indeed the chrism of salvation for those who will be born again of water and the Holy Spirit. May they come to share eternal life in the glory of your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Deliberate reference to “The Trumpet Shall Sound” from Handel’s Messiah.

Consecration of the Chrism
Consecration of the Chrism

Cantor

A-men, A-men,

S/All

A-men, A-men, A-men!

T

B

men, A-men, A-men!
Composer Notes

This setting of the consecration of the chrism during the Mass of the Oils intersperses additional assembly invocations in the prayer text.

The assembly repeats each cantor phrase, overlapping the cantor’s final note each time. A very brief rehearsal with the assembly is necessary before the service. The assembly’s part is always reinforced by the choir, though later in the piece the melody may transfer from the soprano to the alto voice.

The organ accompaniment links the assembly invocations together by sustaining whole-note chords quietly in free time under the Bishop’s spoken text, changing from one chord to the next in accordance with the overlaid text.

A companion octavo setting, “Rite of Reception of the Blessed Oils” (edition 30102947), is also available.

— Paul Inwood
CONSECRATION OF THE CHRISM

Come, O Holy Spirit, come.

(At the end) Bishop: ...We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen, amen.

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