



United Episcopal Catholic Communion

Ancient Tradition For A New Age

Communion of Churches in the Old Catholic and Anglo-Catholic Traditions

THE LITURGY OF THE UNITED EPISCOPAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION

(UECC)

BLESSING AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY OILS



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Order for the Blessing/Consecration of Oils for the Sick, Catechumens, and Chrism

Oil of the Sick is traditionally pure olive oil, and is blessed for that purpose.

Oil of Catechumens is traditionally pure olive oil blessed for baptism. Still used in the Catholic and Orthodox churches, or those who follow the traditional baptism rite.

Chrism is traditionally pure olive oil, mixed with a strong perfume (rose water, frankincense, balsam) and is consecrated. Chrism is used as part of the consecration of a church or altar (Orthodox), and used now primarily in baptism, confirmation and holy orders. The blessing of the holy chrism is different from that of the other oils: Here the clergy breathes over the vessel of chrism, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil, and the life-giving, sanctifying nature of the sacraments for which it is used.

All oils can have fragrance added; usually rose water, balsam or frankincense

@ PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Clergy

Pray, brethren ...

Clergy

May the power of this sacrifice cleanse the old weakness of our human nature. Give us a newness of life and bring us to salvation. Grant this in the name of the + Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Response

Amen.

@ BLESSING/ CONSECRATION

Clergy

The Lord be with you.

Response

And also with you.

Clergy

Lift up your hearts.

Response

We lift them up to the Lord.

Clergy

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Response

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Clergy

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

Clergy

By your Holy Spirit you anointed your only Son High Priest of the new and eternal covenant. With wisdom and love you have planned that this one priesthood should continue in the Church.

Clergy

Christ gives the dignity of a royal priesthood to the people he has made his own. From these, with a brother's love, he chooses men to share his sacred ministry by the laying on of hands.

Clergy

He appoints them to renew in his name the sacrifice of our redemption as they set before your family his paschal meal. He calls them to lead your holy people in love, nourish them by your word, and strengthen them through the sacraments.

Clergy

Father, they are to give their lives in your service and for the salvation of your people as they strive to grow in the likeness of Christ and honor you by their courageous witness of faith and love.

Clergy

We praise you, Lord, with all the angels and saints in their song of joy.

@ BLESSING OF THE OIL OF THE SICK

Clergy

Lord God, loving Father, you bring healing to the sick through your Son Jesus Christ. Hear us as we pray to you in faith, and send the Holy Spirit, man's Helper and Friend, upon this oil, which nature has provided to serve the needs of men. May your blessing ++ come upon all who are anointed with this oil, that they may be freed from pain and illness and made well again in body, mind, and soul. Father, may this oil be blessed for our use in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you now and forever.

Response

Amen.

Clergy

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and invoking the assistance of the holy Archangel Raphael, consecrate ++ and hallow ++ this oil for the healing of the sick; may the blessing of the Great Physician rest thereupon, that it may give refreshment and peace alike to soul and body.

Response

Amen.

Clergy

Let us pray.

**** Pause for silent prayer**

Clergy

Lord God almighty, you have given us fresh strength in these sacramental gifts. Renew in us the image of Christ's goodness. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Response

Amen.

@ BLESSING OF THE OIL OF CATECHUMENS

**** When everything is ready, the clergy faces the people and, with his hands extended, says the following prayer**

Clergy

Lord God, protector of all who believe in you, bless ++ and consecrate ++ this oil and give wisdom and strength to all who are anointed with it in preparation for their baptism. Bring them to a deeper understanding of the gospel, help them to accept the challenge of Christian living, and lead them to the joy of new birth in the family of your Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response

Amen.

@ CONSECRATION OF THE CHRISM

**** The clergy pours the balsam or perfume in the oil and mixes the chrism in silence, unless this was done beforehand.**

@ INVITATION

Clergy

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

@ CONSECRATORY PRAYER

** Then the clergy may breathe over the opening of the vessel of chrism. With his hands extended, he says one of the following consecratory prayers.

Clergy 1.

God our maker, source of all growth in holiness, accept the joyful thanks and praise we offer in the name of your Church.

Clergy 2.

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.

Clergy 3.

After the 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.

Clergy 4.

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 dearly fulfilled the prophecy of David, that Christ would be anointed with the oil of gladness beyond his fellow men.

Clergy 5.

And so, 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.

Clergy 6.

Make this chrism a sign of 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.

Clergy 7.

Through this sign of chrism grant them royal, priestly, and prophetic honor, and clothe them with in-corruption. 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.

Response

Amen.

Or:

Clergy 1.

Father, we thank you for the gifts you have given us in your love: we thank you for life itself and for the sacraments that strengthen it and give it fuller meaning.

Clergy 2.

In the Old Covenant you gave your people a glimpse of the power of this holy oil and when the fullness of time had come you brought that mystery to perfection in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

Clergy 3.

By his suffering, dying, and rising to life he saved the human race. He sent your Spirit to fill the Church with every gift needed to complete your saving work.

Clergy 4.

From that time forward, through the sign of holy chrism, you dispense your life and love to men. By anointing them with the Spirit, you strengthen all who have been reborn in baptism. Through that anointing you transform them into the

likeness of Christ your Son and give them a share in his royal, priestly, and prophetic work.

Clergy 5.

And so, Father, by the power of your love, make this mixture of oil and perfume a sign and source + of your blessing. Pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on our brothers and sisters who will be anointed with it. Let the splendor of holiness shine on the world from every place and thing signed with this oil.

Clergy 6.

Above all, Father, we pray that through this sign of your anointing you will grant increase to your Church until it reaches the eternal glory where you, Father, will be the all in all, together with Christ your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Response

Amen.

@ SOLEMN BLESSING OR PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Clergy

Father, look with love upon your people, the love which our Lord Jesus Christ showed us when he delivered himself to evil men and suffered the agony of the cross. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Response

Amen.

Clergy

May almighty God bless you, the + Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Response

Amen.