

CORONATION OF FREDERICK I

18 January 1701

When both Their Majesties, the King and Queen, entered into the church, which is in their castle, they were most submissively received and saluted by the first Royal Grand Court Preacher-Consistory and Church-Counselor Benjamin Ursinus, as Lord Consecrator or chief or first bishop; as also by the Royal Prussian Grand Court Preacher and Assessor of the Provincial Consistory of Samland, Bernard V. Sanden, doctor and primary Professor of Divinity in the Academy; together with the other six assisting as assisting bishops; together with the other six attending ministers of the Gospel—to wit, the Prussian Royal Reformed Court Preachers Cochius, Lursenius, and Mell; and the Royal Court Preacher Gottfried Wegener, doctor and professor in ordinary of Divinity in ordinary; Pomian Pesarovius, doctor and professor in ordinary and pastor of the Cathedral Church, and also assessor in the aforesaid provincial consistory of Samland; and Bartholomew Goldbach, pastor of the old town's church and assessor in the aforesaid consistory.

Then did the aforesaid Consecrator address himself to both Their Majesties in these terms:

Let the blessed of the Lord, our King and Queen, enter in the power of our God. And let their coming in and going out be blessed before the Lord from this time forth, and even forever more, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hereupon immediately the organs made a preamble and, while they played, the Consecrator and his assistant, as also all the other attending preachers, marched to the altar, and the Consecrator and his assistant placed themselves before the altar and the other attending preachers on each side of the altar, three on each side.

Both Their Majesties, attended with their royal train, walked under the organs towards their royal throne and placed themselves upon it. As soon as they sat down upon their throne, the music began from the choirs, and then the whole congregation sang the hymn *God be Merciful Unto Us*. While the last verse was singing, the Consecrator retreated from the altar into the vestry. After this hymn was sung, the assistant before the altar, with his face towards Their Majesties, made this following prayer:

Eternal, almighty, only wise, great God, You are our refuge forever and ever. God of gods, King of kings, and Lord of all lords, a father of mercies in Jesus Christ our Lord, Your only beloved son, we acknowledge that You alone make men great and potent, and it is of Your grace and faithfulness when You give to Your people kings to be their nursing fathers and queens to be their nursing mothers.

Hence it is that You at this time present before our eyes, with all his royal ornaments, our dread sovereign, Your prince and servant, Lord Frederick, King in Prussia, and Your princess and servant, Lady Sophia Charlotta, Queen in Prussia; who now in Your sanctuary, with all their hearts present and devote to Your Honor to You, the most high God; and devote to Your honor and glory their royal highness and dignity, their royal thrones, their royal crowns, scepter, sword, seal, and other ensigns of royalty, as they have received them from Your hands.

And seeing You have in particular put it into their hearts that they should publicly receive the unction, where with You formerly did appoint and order the kings of Your people of Israel to be anointed, we therefore humbly pray that You Yourself would sanctify, O God; You, Holy One of Israel, would sanctify this holy action to the bodies and on the souls of our King and Queen. Let them be to them sure and certain signs and tokens that You will anoint them with the oil of gladness, with Your holy and good spirit. Do, by this, pour upon them Your love, that on them may rest the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and of strength, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. Let them from this receive power and strength to grow in all royal virtues, to the glory of Your name, to the consolation of Your church, to the joy and interest of their royal house and of all their territories and subjects.

Pardon us also all our sins; for Your beloved Son's sake grant Your blessing to the preaching of Your word. Let also all our purposes at this time, by the ministry of Your word and by prayer, be thoroughly sanctified. And You, O God, sanctify us all through and through, that our whole spirit, soul, and body may be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

After this prayer was sung and played on musical instruments the hymn which begins, "Glory be to God alone, in the highest" and while the last verse was singing, the Consecrator ascended the pulpit and made a short sermon upon the words of God written in I Samuel 2:9, "for them that honor me, I will honor." After the sermon, the organs were played upon, and with them was sung verses 2–8 and verse 14 of Psalm 21.

While this music was continued, the Consecrator descended from the pulpit and went into the vestry. And before it was quite ended, he, with his assisting bishop, placed themselves again before the altar, with their faces towards Their Royal Majesties, and the other attending preachers stood in their former order on both sides of the altar.

When the music ended, the whole congregation sang, and the choir with musical instruments and voices played the hymn which begins. "Come, O God Creator, Holy Ghost." When this hymn ended, the drums and trumpets played a short note or two.

While the drums and trumpets made such a noise, His Majesty the King offered or presented himself to receive the unction and the Consecrator, with his assistant, descended from the altar to a little bench, whereon the King kneeled and received the unction.

The Consecrator, having in his hand a plate of pure gold, his Excellence and Grace, His Royal Majesty's Grand-Chamberlain Monseigneur Von Wahrtenburg, Count of the Empire; set upon the plate a vessel of jasper, wherein was the anointing oil. This plate, with the vessel aforesaid and the oil, the Consecrator afterwards gave to his assistant to hold.

Hereupon His Majesty, the King himself, took the crown from his head and, laying the crown together with his scepter upon a cushion beside him, kneeled. So soon as His Majesty the King kneeled, the Grand Chamberlain aforesaid drew His Majesty's periwig a little backward, that His Majesty's forehead was quite bare and free. Then the Consecrator took the vessel with the anointing oil from the golden plate and poured a little thereof upon the two foremost fingers of his right hand and anointed His Majesty the King therewith, first upon his forehead, then the pulse of the right hand, after this the pulse of the left hand, and so set the vessel with the oil upon the golden plate again. Then the drums and trumpets ceased and the Consecrator with a loud voice addressed His Royal Majesty in these words:

Let Your Royal Majesty receive this unction as a divine sign and token whereby God formerly, by His priests and prophets, did testify to the kings of his people that He Himself alone is the most high God, and that He makes, sets up, and appoints kings. And let the Lord our God Himself herewith anoint Your Royal Majesty with the Holy Ghost, that you, as an anointed of the Lord, with a resolute, courageous, and willing heart may rule and govern this, your people and kingdom. And in good health and prosperity for many years and times to come may serve the counsel and will of your God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Immediately after this, with instrumental and vocal music, were sung these words:

Amen, Amen, prosperity to the King, prosperity to the King, prosperity to the King. God grant him length of days.

Then again began the drums to beat and the trumpets to sound a short note or two. During the noise of the trumpets and drums, the above-said Grand Chamberlain, with a cloth prepared for that purpose, washed the oil from His Majesty's, the King's forehead, and both his hands, and gave the cloth to the Consecrator.

And after this, the Consecrator delivered back again to the Grand Chamberlain the vessel of jasper with the oil upon the golden plate, and His Majesty the King returned to his throne and sat himself upon it.

The Consecrator and his assistant remained standing before the bench whereon His Majesty the King kneeled. And the noise of drums and trumpets continuing, Her Majesty the Queen presented herself to be anointed, and kneeled. And then the Grand Chamberlain aforesaid gave the same vessel with oil to the Consecrator, who received it on the golden plate and delivered it to his assistant, from whom the Consecrator received it again and, having anointed Her Majesty the Queen on the forehead and on the pulses of both arms (after he had poured a little thereof on the forefingers of his right hand), he set the vessel with the remaining oil in its appointed place.

When the noise of drums and trumpets ceased, the Consecrator with a loud voice said to Her Majesty as follows:

Let Your Royal Majesty receive this unction as a divine sign and token that Your Majesty has this anointing and appointment to royal dignity and majesty from God, Who espoused you to your king that he should have from you both joy and comfort. And the Lord our God anoint you more and more with His Holy Ghost, that you may be courageous and willing to glorify God and serve him, for Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Here upon from the choir with instrumental and vocal music was sung and played as before:

Amen, Amen, prosperity to our Queen, prosperity to our Queen, prosperity to our Queen. God grant her length of days.

Then again began the noise, with drums and trumpets, and the Duchess of Holstein washed the oil from Her Majesty the Queen's forehead and her arm with a cloth prepared for that purpose, which cloth she afterwards delivered to the Consecrator.

Then the Consecrator delivered to the Grand Chamberlain the vessel with oil as he received it from him. In the meantime, Her Majesty the Queen retreated and, while the drums and trumpets made a noise, placed herself upon the throne. Whereupon the Consecrator and his assistant returned to the altar, and when the trumpets and drums ceased, they both, in company with the rest of the attending preachers, presented themselves before His Majesty the King. First stood a while, afterwards bowed themselves, and made a very deep reverence and worshipped him, as the Scripture says. Then said the Consecrator:

Prosperity to the King, King Frederick, King in Prussia. And the Lord, the God of our lord the King says so. As the Lord has been with him hithertowards, so let him be with him for the time to come, that his royal throne may daily be greater and greater. Amen.

Then the vocal and instrumental music from the choir repeated again:

Amen, Amen, prosperity to the King, prosperity to the King, prosperity to the King. God grant him length of days.

So soon as all was still and quiet, all these ministers, presented themselves in like manner before the Queen's Majesty; and the Consecrator spoke to her with a loud voice these words:

Prosperity to the Queen, to Sophia Charlotta, Queen in Prussia. The Lord our God make you a blessing to His people and grant you may see the prosperity of your royal house, and children's children, in Israel's Peace. Amen.

Then again began the instrumental and vocal music to repeat:

Amen, Amen, Prosperity to the Queen, prosperity to the Queen, prosperity to the Queen. God grant her length of days.

After a short pause, the music began again and first a discanter sung alone, and afterwards the whole choir, these words:

Glory to God on high, Peace on Earth, Good will towards men.

During this music and singing, all the ministers (having made a very deep reverence towards both Their Majesties) retreated and the Consecrator and his assistant placed themselves again before the altar. When all was still and quiet again, the Consecrator with a loud voice, as to the people, said these words:

Fear God, honor your King and your Queen. Let their help come from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. The Lord suffer not your foot to be moved; the Lord be their keeper and their shade on their right hand, that the sun smite them not by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord preserve them from all evil. The Lord preserve their soul. The Lord preserve their going out and their coming in from this time forth, and forever more. Amen.

Then the vocal and instrumental music sung and played these words:

Lord begin even now to bless the house of Your servant Frederick, King in Prussia, that he may be before You forever, for what You blessed, O Lord, is blessed forever.

After this piece of music was ended, the whole congregation, joining with the music in the choir, sung the two last verses of the hymn of Paulus Speratus which begins, "Our salvation comes alone from free grace and mercy," but the two last verses begin, "Praise and glory be to You for so great mercies."

The assistant, to conclude, repeated this prayer before the altar:

Almighty, Eternal God, most merciful and faithful father, in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we praise and glorify Your holy name that You have given to us not only Your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to be our everlasting king, and in and through him have given to us the everlasting kingdom of heaven, for an inheritance of the saints in light, but also that at this time You have granted to us this special grace, that we may now with our eyes see Your anointed, our King and Queen, in Your sanctuary. As You now have been pleased to grant grace to this holy action of the royal unction, and here in this world have erected a kingdom for our King. So we pray, O God, You would please to strengthen it and be a wall of defense about it, for it is Your own work.

Let therefore be recommended to You as the apple of Your eye His Royal Majesty Frederick, our most gracious King and sovereign lord; together with his royal spouse Her Majesty, our Queen; His Royal Highness, our Crown and Hereditary Prince, the royal Lady his daughter, the royal Lord his brethren, and ladies his sisters, and all that are related and allied to this royal and high house. Preserve them from all evil, bless them with all good things, both in their bodies and in their souls. Yea, so bless the house of Your anointed that it may be before You forever, for what You, Lord, bless is blessed forever. Hear us, O our heavenly father for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Immediately after this, the usual blessing was said. After that, with trumpets and drums was sung *Te Deum Laudamus*, and then all the bells in the city rung, the great guns from the walls were discharged, and the volleys were given by the soldiery. Then was a general pardon proclaimed and after that the drums and trumpets made a noise again. And while this continued, Their Majesties returned from the church.

J. Wickham Legg, ed. *An Account in English of the Anointing of the First King of Prussia in 1701* (London: Harrison, 1899):10–20.