

The

S

○ **Sapientia** *WISDOM of Our God Most High,
DEC 17 guiding creation with power and love:
come and teach us the path of knowledge!*

A

○ **Adonai** *LEADER of the House of Israel,
DEC 18 giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!*

R

○ **Radix Jesse** *ROOT OF JESSE'S stem,
DEC 19 sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!*

O

○ **Clavis David** *KEY OF DAVID,
DEC 20 opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!*

C

O

○ **Orionis** *RADIANT DAWN,
DEC 21 splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death.*

G

O

○ **Rex Gentium** *KING OF ALL NATIONS
DEC 22 and keystone of the Church:
come and save man,
whom you formed from the dust!*

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○ **Emmanuel** *EMMANUEL, our King and Giver of Law:
DEC 23 come to save us, Lord our God!*

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TOMORROW

(THERE)

I WILL BE

Antiphons

Sts. Simon  & Jude

The Woodlands, Texas

The O Antiphons

In the Church calendar, the celebration of Jesus' birth takes second place only to the celebration of His resurrection. It may not be obvious at first, but *both feasts are two weeks long!* Easter actually runs from Palm Sunday thru Mercy Sunday, and Christmas runs from Dec 17 thru January 1. January 1 is the Octave of Christmas on which we celebrate Mary as the Mother of God, but the "pre-Octave" begins on Dec 17 with special chants at Evening Prayer that include the so-called *O Antiphons*.

To celebrate together these pre-Octave days, we invite everyone to join in reciting the *Magnificat* each day with the assigned antiphons and some prayers extracted from the Church's Liturgy of the Hours – perhaps at dinner with the family. This booklet is offered to help with that. Its contents are also available for your home use via weblink from our home page: <https://ssjwoodlands.com>

This famous ancient set of Antiphons derives from the inspired words that Isaiah used to describe the Messiah he knew was coming to rescue Israel and establish God's Kingdom on earth. As the USCCB say, "Their repeated use of the imperative 'Come!' embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah."

Background

In the traditional arrangement, when viewed from Christmas Eve backward, the first letters of the Latin texts (**E**mmanuel, **R**ex, **O**riens, **C**lavis, **R**adix, **A**donai, **S**apientia) spell out the phrase *ero cras* – "I come tomorrow".

First put together by at least the 8th Century, the *O Antiphons* are sure to have sprung from many centuries earlier in our worship tradition. These are special Christmas pre-octave verses that are sung during Mary's *Magnificat* at Evening Prayer — part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the only prayer that clergy are obliged to say every day.

Since Vatican II, in somewhat different translations, these also serve as the pre-Gospel Alleluia verses at Mass on the same days.

The references to the prophet Isaiah are so rich they warrant special study during this holy time. Of course, the antiphons are the basis for the popular favorite "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

This booklet presents the Latin and literal English antiphons, the Isaiah (and suggested other) scripture references for each day, the modern Church-approved English Evening Prayer and Alleluia Verse texts, and the familiar Traditional Hymn translations.

The Antiphons have been put to music by such classical greats as the Frenchman Marc-Antoine Charpentier (~1690), Englishmen Ralph Vaughan-Williams (1933) and Bob Chilcott (2005), Estonian Arvo Pärt (1988,91), American Peter Hallock (1986,89). A *YouTube* search will reveal a

treasury of *O Antiphon* music.

December 17

we take a backward flight into the recesses of eternity to address Wisdom, the Word of God

**

O Sapientia, quae ex ore
Altissimi prodisti,
attingens a fine usque ad finem
fortiter, suaviter disponensque omnia:
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

Literal

O Wisdom, Who didst come out of the mouth of
the Most High,
reaching from end to end and
ordering all things mightily and sweetly:
come and teach us the way of prudence.

*Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for **Mass***

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 11:2-3, 28:29

11:2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
3 and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.
Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,...

28:29 This too comes from the LORD of hosts;
wonderful is his counsel and great his wisdom.

Additional Scripture References

Wisdom 8:1 Proverbs 8:1-36 John 1:1-5

Responsory Hymn

Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(2) O Come, Thou Wisdom, from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

Canticle of Mary

Antiphon from Evening Prayer

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:
Come and show your people the way to salvation.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

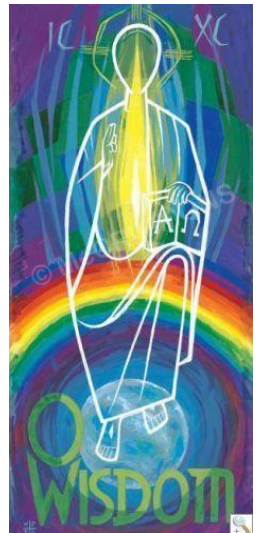
O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:
Come and show your people the way to salvation.

Closing Prayer

Oration from Evening Prayer

Father,
creator and redeemer of mankind,
you decreed, and your Word became man,
born of the Virgin Mary.
May we come to share the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share our human nature,
for he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Our banner shows the eternal Christ whose throne is the universe,
the earth his footstool, the Pantocrator of ancient and medieval
paintings.



December 18

*we have leaped from eternity to the time of
Moses and the Law of Moses (about 1400
B.C.)*

Literal

O Adonai, et dux domus Israel,
qui Moyse in igne flammae rubi apparuisti,
et ei in Sina legem dedisti:
veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel,
Who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the
burning bush,
and didst give unto him the Law on Sinai:
come and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

*Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for **Mass***

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 33:22, 63:11-12

33:22 For the LORD is our judge,
the LORD is our lawgiver,
the LORD is our king;
he it is who will save us.

63:11 Then they remembered the days of old,
of Moses, his servant:
Where is the one who brought up out of the sea
the shepherd of his flock?
Where is the one who placed in their midst
his holy spirit,

12 Who guided Moses by the hand,
with his glorious arm?
Where is the one
who divided the waters before them—

winning for himself
an everlasting renown—

Additional Scripture References

Exodus 3:2 Micah 6:4 Acts 7:30-31

Responsory Hymn

Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(3) O Come, O Come, Thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Canticle of Mary

Antiphon from Evening Prayer

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush,
who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain:
Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush,
who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain:
Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

Closing Prayer

Oration from Evening Prayer

All-powerful God,
renew us by the coming feast of your Son
and free us from our slavery to sin.
Grant this our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Our banner image presents the burning bush at which God is reluctant to reveal his Son 'and gave him a name above all names'(see Philippians 2:9-11). He it was who was present in the blaze of the burning bush and the lightening on Mount Sinai, he who



said, "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already." (Luke 12:49)

December 19

we have come to the time when God was preparing the line of David (about 1100 B.C.)

Literal

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum
populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare..

O Root of Jesse, Who dost stand for an ensign
of the people,
before Whom kings shall keep silence,
and unto Whom the Gentiles shall make their
supplication:
come to deliver us, and tarry not..

*Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for **Mass***

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 11:1,10, 52:15

11:1 But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

10 On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the peoples —
Him the nations will seek out;
his dwelling shall be glorious.

52:15 So shall he startle many nations,
kings shall stand speechless;
For those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard

shall ponder it.

Additional Scripture Reference Romans 15:12

Responsory Hymn

Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(4) O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
from ev'ry foe deliver them
that trust Thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Canticle of Mary

Antiphon from Evening Prayer

O Flower of Jesse's stem,
you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples;
kings stand silent in your presence;
the nations bow down in worship before you.
Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

O Flower of Jesse's stem,...*(Repeat the Antiphon from Evening Prayer)*

Closing Prayer

Oration from Evening Prayer

Father,
you show the world the splendor of your glory
in the coming of Christ, born of the Virgin.
Give to us true faith and love
to celebrate the mystery of God made man.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
One God for ever and ever. Amen

Our banner image reflects that Jesse was the father of King David, Christ's ancestor, and Christ is the flower springing from the ancient root. On him the Spirit of the Lord will rest, restoring God's creation to its original wholeness and innocence.

He will be given the throne of David, as the Angel announced to Mary (Luke 1:32) and in the Temple of Jerusalem Simeon will take the Christ child in his arms and proclaim him the light of the gentiles, the glory of God's people Israel (Luke 2:29-35).



December 20

*we have come to the year 1000 B.C.,
the time of Israel's king David*

Literal

O Clavis David, et sceptrum
domus Israel,
qui aperis, et nemo claudit;
claudis, et nemo aperuit:
veni, et educ vincitum de domo carceris,
sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Key of David and Sceptre
of the house of Israel,
Who dost open and no man doth shut,
Who dost shut and no man doth open,
come and bring forth from his prisonhouse
the captive that sitteth in darkness
and in the shadow of death..

Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for Mass

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 22:22

I will place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
what he opens, no one will shut,
what he shuts, no one will open.

Additional Scripture References

Revelation 3:7 Jeremiah 13:13; 51:19 Matthew 4:16; 16:19 Luke 1:79

Responsory Hymn

Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(5) O Come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home,
make safe the way that leads on high,
that we no more have cause to sigh.

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel,
controlling at your will the gate of heaven:
Come, break down the prison walls of death
for those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death;
and lead your captive people into freedom.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel,
controlling at your will the gate of heaven:
Come, break down the prison walls of death
for those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death;
and lead your captive people into freedom.

God of love and mercy,
help us to follow the example of Mary,
always ready to do your will.
At the message of an angel
she welcomed your eternal Son
and, filled with the light of your Spirit,
she became the temple of your Word,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

The key, the scepter, the star is Christ who through his death and resurrection opened the gates of hell. Our banner is based on the Eastern 'Anastasis', showing Christ victoriously rising from the tomb, trampling the gates of death underfoot and pulling Adam and Eve out of their graves, and with them the whole human race.



December 21

*we see that the line of David is elevated so
that the peoples may look on a rising star in
the east*

Literal

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae,
et sol justitiae:
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris,
et umbra mortis.

O Dawn of the East,
Brightness of the Light Eternal
and Sun of Justice,
come and enlighten them that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for Dec 24 Morning Mass

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 9:1, 58:8, 60:18-20

9:1 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom
a light has shone.

58:8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

60:18 No longer shall violence be heard of in your land,
or plunder and ruin within your borders.
You shall call your walls "Salvation"
and your gates "Praise."

19 No longer shall the sun
be your light by day,

Nor shall the brightness of the moon
give you light by night;
Rather, the LORD will be your light forever,
your God will be your glory.
20 No longer will your sun set,
or your moon wane;
For the LORD will be your light forever,
and the days of your grieving will be over.

Additional Scripture References
Malachi 4:2 Luke 1:78-79 John 8:12 Revelation 22:16

Responsory Hymn *Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
(6) O Come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

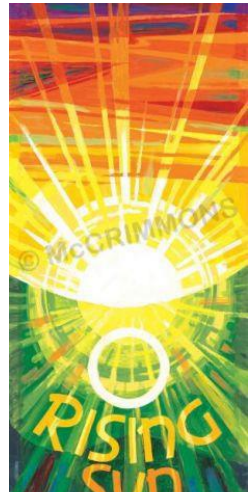
Canticle of Mary *Antiphon from Evening Prayer*
O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

O Radiant Dawn,...(Repeat the *Antiphon*)

Closing Prayer *Oration from Evening Prayer*

Lord, hear the prayers of your people.
May we who celebrate
the birth of your Son as man
rejoice in the gift of eternal life
when he comes in glory
for he lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen



This antiphon falls on the winter solstice, the turning-point of the

year. Christ is figured as the dawn and the returning sun, appearing in the time of greatest darkness.

December 22

*we know that He is king of all the world of
man*

Literal

O Rex Gentium,

et desideratus earum,
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum:
veni, et salva hominem,
quem de limo formasti.

O King of the Gentiles
and the Desired of them,
Thou Cornerstone that dost make both one,
come and deliver man,
whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for Dec. 22 and 23 **Mass**

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 2:4, 11:10

2:4 He shall judge between the nations,
and set terms for many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again.

11:10 On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the peoples —
Him the nations will seek out;
his dwelling shall be glorious.

Additional Scripture References

Psalms 47:8; Jeremiah 10:7 Daniel 7:14 Haggai 2:8 Romans 15:12
Ephesians 2:14, 20

Responsory Hymn

Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(7) O Come, Desire of the nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;

bid every strife and quarrel cease
and fill the world with heaven's peace.

Canticle of Mary

Antiphon from Evening Prayer

O King of all the nations,
the only joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of man:
Come and save the creature
you fashioned from the dust.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

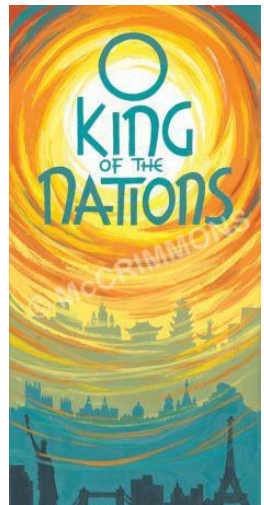
O King of all the nations,
the only joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of man:
Come and save the creature
you fashioned from the dust.

Closing Prayer

Oration from Evening Prayer

God our Father,
you sent your Son
to free mankind from the power of death.
May we who celebrate the coming of Christ as man
share more fully in his divine life,
for he lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Our banner gives a panorama of the contemporary world to be won
for the universal King and to be brought to the unity for which he
himself prayed (John 17:21-23).



December 23

*the evening before the vigil, and before
coming to the town limits of Bethlehem, we
salute Him with the last Great O – O
Emmanuel, God-with-us*

Literal

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster,
expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum:
veni ad salvandum nos,
Domine, Deus noster.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Expected of the Nations and their Saviour,
come to save us,
O Lord our God.

*Alleluia Verse from the Lectionary for Dec.21 **Mass***

O Emmanuel, our King,
and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

Reading

Reference from Isaiah – 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign;
the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son,
shall name him Emmanuel.

Additional Scripture References
Matthew 1:23 1 Timothy 4:9

Responsory Hymn

Verse from O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(1) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Canticle of Mary

Antiphon from Evening Prayer

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver,
desire of the nations, Savior of all people:
Come and set us free, Lord our God.

Magnificat from inside back cover.

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver,
desire of the nations, Savior of all people:
Come and set us free, Lord our God.

Closing Prayer

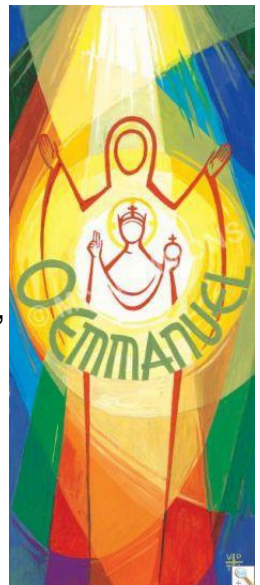
Oration from Evening Prayer

Father,
we contemplate the birth of your Son.
He was born of the Virgin Mary
and came to live among us.
May we receive forgiveness and mercy
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen

Our banner continues to acclaim him as our King. Yet as Christmas draws near he comes to us in the humility and tenderness of a newborn child: Emmanuel, God-with-us. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Revelation 21:3).

Mary bears him who is both God and Man, great Lawgiver and lover of sinners, mighty Ruler and helpless child, son and brother.

Note: December 23's is the last "Evening Prayer" before Christmas's own "First Evening Prayer". The feast is so great that it simply overflows into the evening before.





Christmas Day

'Wonderful Exchange! The Creator of the human race took to himself a human body and was born of a virgin, and becoming man he granted us divinity.'

This antiphon comes from the Greek Liturgy and was, until Vatican II, also part of the Roman Liturgy of January 1.

The whole mystery of Christmas is summed up here, God's plan for the human race, the pattern of all Christian life.

"The Spirit bears witness that we are God's children", wrote St Paul, "God's heirs and Christ's fellow heirs, sharing his suffering now and his glory hereafter." (Romans 8:16-17)

"God became man, so that man might come to share God's life," wrote St Irenaeus, and,

"Let us become gods through Christ, since Christ became man through us." (St. Gregory of Nazianzen).

Sources

**** History notes** for the dates are from *He Cometh* by Fr. McGarry, as cited on <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=958>

Each day's antiphon texts are from *The Roman Catholic Lectionary Website* compiled by Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D. -

<http://catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/Advent-O-Antiphons.htm>

Literal translations are from the *The Daily Office According To The Book Of Common Prayer*, 2019 Anglican Church in North America at

https://www.dailyoffice2019.com/evening_prayer/2019-12-16/

Isaiah quotes are from the *New American Bible, Revised Edition* (NABRE). ©CCD.

2011 <http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm#Isaiah>

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Washington, DC.

Our Lady's Canticle The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.



Our Parish Mission Prayer

Lord Jesus,
just as you commissioned
Sts. Simon and Jude
to “Go therefore and make disciples”,
you are calling us to do the same!

May we respond to you
by welcoming all
to be part of our Eucharistic Community
as we strive to grow in our knowledge, love,
and service to God and to one another.

Loving Father,
fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit
so that we can go forth
proclaiming the Good News to all.

Saints Simon and Jude



Pray for us.