The Great "O" Antiphons-O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Great "O" Antiphons are prayers addressed to the Son of God, which call upon Him to come to us according to the promises of the Old Testament Scriptures. Historically, Christians have prayed these prayers during Advent (the Season of anticipation for Christ's coming), seven days before Christmas. These antiphons are the basis for each stanza of the familiar Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The antiphons and their corresponding hymn stanza are provided for you below to supplement the Congregation at Prayer for your personal and family Advent devotions. The antiphon may be sung before and after the appropriate hymn stanza.



December 17—Christ, Our Wisdom—Isaiah 11:2; 1 Corinthians 1:24

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering | all things:*

Come and teach us the way of | prudence.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

December 18—Christ, Our Redeemer Lord—Exodus 3:13-15; Luke 2:8-11

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on | Sinai:*

Come with an outstretched arm and re- | deem us.

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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

December 19—Christ, the Root of Jesse—Isaiah 11:1, 10; John 3:14-17

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do | homage:* Come quickly to de- | liver us.

> O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

December 20—Christ, the Key of David—Isaiah 22:22; Revelation 1:18; 3:7, 11

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,
You open and no one can close, You close and no one can | open:*

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness
and the shad- | ow of death.

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

December 21—Christ, the Dayspring—Isaiah 9:2; Luke 1:78-79

O Dayspring, splendor of light ever- | lasting:*

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

December 22—Christ, the King of the Nations—Isaiah 9:6-7;

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all | people:*

Come and save us all, whom You formed | out of clay.

> O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

December 23—Christ, Our Emmanuel—Isaiah 7:14;

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their | Savior:* Come and save us, O | Lord our God.

> O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!