

## 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.” Each antiphon is introduced by an Old Testament promise followed by its New Testament fulfillment.

Hymn:

351

### “Creator of the Stars of Night”

Children: St. 1-2

Congregation: St. 3-6



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
 2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse  
 3 Thou cam’st the Bride - groom of the bride,  
 4 At whose dread name, ma - jes - tic now,



Thy peo - ple’s ev - er - last - ing Light:  
 Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 As drew the world to e - ven - tide,  
 All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;



O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all  
 Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,  
 The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine  
 All things ce - les - tial Thee shall own,



And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.  
 To cure and save our ru - ined race.  
 Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine.  
 And things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone.

5 O Thou, whose coming is with dread  
 To judge the living and the dead,  
 Preserve us from the ancient foe  
 While still we dwell on earth below.

6 To God the Father and the Son  
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
 Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
 From age to age eternally. Amen.

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
 Tune: Sarum plainsong, c. 9th cent., mode IV  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Invocation** Sung responsively by the children and congregation.

Children:	Congregation:	
		
The Spirit and the Church	cry out:	Come, - Lord Je - sus!
All those who await His appear -	ance pray:	Come, - Lord Je - sus!
The whole crea -	tion pleads:	Come, - Lord Je - sus!

**Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**December 17—Christ, Our Wisdom—Isaiah 11:2; 1 Corinthians 1:23b-24**

❖ **Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment**

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,  
but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,  
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

❖ **Meditation**

❖ **Antiphon: Christ, Our Wisdom**

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.

Sung by Children: 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.

Sung by all: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

❖ **The Banner “Christ, Our Wisdom” is hung**

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

### ❖ Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment

Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”<sup>15</sup> Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.’

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.<sup>9</sup> And behold,<sup>[b]</sup> an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.<sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.<sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

### ❖ Meditation

#### ❖ Antiphon: Christ, Our Redeemer Lord

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.

Sung by Men: 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.

Sung by all: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
**Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### ❖ The Banner “Christ, Our Redeemer” is hung

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

❖ **Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment**

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots...  
“And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,  
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;  
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,  
And His resting place shall be glorious.”

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

❖ **Meditation**

❖ **Antiphon: Christ, the Root of Jesse**

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 deliv- | er us.

Sung by Trebles: 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.

Sung by all: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

❖ **The Banner “Christ, the Root of Jesse” is hung**

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

❖ **Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment**

The key of the house of David  
I will lay on his shoulder;  
So he shall open, and no one shall shut;  
And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death... ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”... Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

❖ **Meditation**

❖ **Antiphon: Christ, the Key of David**

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 shadow | of death.

Sung by Men: 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.

Sung by all:       **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
                          **Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

❖ **The Banner “Christ, the Key of David” is hung**

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

❖ **Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment**

The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined.

Through the tender mercy of our God,  
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;  
To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

❖ **Meditation**

❖ **Antiphon: Christ, the Dayspring**

O — Dayspring, splendor of light ever-lasting:\*  
Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow | of death.

Sung by Trebles: 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.

Sung by all: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

❖ **The Banner “Christ, the Dayspring is hung**

**December 22—Christ, the King of the Nations—Is. 9:6-7; Haggai 2:6-7; Mt. 2:1-2**

❖ **Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment**

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of *His* government and peace  
*There will be* no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it *is* a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

❖ **Meditation**

❖ **Antiphon: Christ, the King of the Nations**

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.

Sung by Men: 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.

Sung by all: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

❖ **The Banner “Christ, the King of the Nations” is hung**

**December 23—Christ, Our Emmanuel—Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20-23**

❖ **Old Testament Reading and New Testament Fulfillment**

The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

❖ **Meditation**

❖ **Antiphon: Christ, Our Emmanuel**

O — Emmanuel, our king and our Lord,  
the anointed for the nations  
and their Savior.\*

Come and save us, O Lord | our God.

Sung by All: **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!**

❖ **The Banner “Christ, Our Emmanuel” is hung**

**PRAYERS and BENEDICTION**

**HYMN:**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
Children sing stanza 3

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