

O ANTIPHONS



The “O Antiphons” refer to the seven antiphons that are recited preceding the Magnificent during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, 17 – 23 December.

The exact origin is unknown. But there is reference to them in the 5th and 6th Century and continue in monastic traditions. The O Antiphons highlight the Messianic titles of Jesus and each refers to a prophecy of Isaiah. The prayer is simple but the power of the words spring from the heart of the ancient Church to today. As part of your dinner prayer on person read the reading and another person pray the prayer.

17 December – O Sapientia/O Wisdom - 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 fear of the Lord and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. (Is 11:2-3)

Let us pray,
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.

18 December - O Adonai/O Sacred Lord – But he shall judge the poor with justice and decide aright of the land’s afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. (Is 11:4-5)

Let us pray,
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.

19 December – O Radix Jesse/O Flower of Jesse – But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom (Is 11:10) On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious. (Is 11: 10)

Let us pray,
O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign of hope and God’s love for all people. Come Lord Jesus and fulfill your promise of salvation

20 December – O Clavis David: O Key of David – I will place the key of the house of David on his shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, when he shuts, no one will open. Is: 22:22 His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David’s throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. 9:6

Let us pray,

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.

21 December – O Oriens: O Radiant Dawn – The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown 9:1

Let us pray,

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Bring us the light of your love.

22 December – O Rex Gentium – O King of all the nations – For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. 9:5 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. 2:4

Let us pray,

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, for you are the Prince of Peace.

23 December – O Emmanuel – O God With Us - The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. 7:14

Let us pray,

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

**COME LORD JESUS,
REIGN IN OUR HEARTS AND OUR HOMES!**