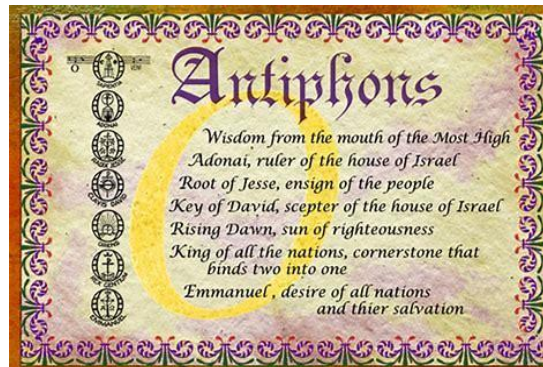


Great O Antiphons for Octave of Advent

December 17-23



An antiphon in Christian music is a “responsory” by a congregation. Within Anglican custom, the O Antiphons were traditionally used with the Magnificat at Evening Prayer between 17-24 December (eight days before Christmas, called an “octave”, and they appear in the Book of Common Prayer’s church calendar). Through these prayers Christians down the centuries have prayed for Christ to return, addressing Jesus by different, ancient titles. The hymn ‘O come, O come, Emmanuel’ (in Latin, Veni Emmanuel) is a lyrical paraphrase of these antiphons. The first letters of the titles taken backwards form a Latin acrostic of “Ero Cras” which translates to “Tomorrow, I will be there”, mirroring the theme of the antiphons.

They are complemented by the song O Come All Ye Faithful, traditionally sung on Christmas Eve church service, which invites all people to adore the Lord.

I invite you to enter deeply into the last week of Advent with this short liturgy. You can use it at the beginning of the day, before dinner, or at the close of the day.



Light the Advent wreath.

Say (listed below) or play the antiphon of the day. (If you hover over the latin, the words of the antiphon show up. You can play them using [this video](#) where the O antiphon is sung:

- *December 17: [O Sapientia](#) (O Wisdom); (0-0.45 in video)*
- *December 18: [O Adonai](#) (O Lord); (0.45-1.33 in video)*
- *December 19: [O Radix Jesse](#) (O Root of Jesse); (1.33-2.18 in video)*
- *December 20: [O Clavis David](#) (O Key of David); (2.18-3.16 in video)*
- *December 21: [O Oriens](#) (O Dayspring); (3.16-3.59 in video)*
- *December 22: [O Rex Gentium](#) (O King of the Nations); (3:59-4.40 in video)*
- *December 23: [O Emmanuel](#) (O God is with Us); (4:40-7:18 in video)*
- *Additional antiphon for Dec. 24: O Virgin is dedicated to the Virgin Mary (7:18-end of video)*

Say or play the Magnificat. Here are some musical options:

- *(play from 6:45-9:42) Magnificat from [Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer](#) with words of Annunciation*
- *Magnificat by [Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend](#) as sung St. Thomas' Choir*
- *The Hymn [Tell Out My Soul](#)*

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Close with saying the antiphon again.

O Antiphon for December 17

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.

O Antiphon for December 18

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.

O Antiphon for December 19

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.

O Antiphon for December 20

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.

O Antiphon for December 21

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.

O Antiphon for December 22

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.

O Antiphon for December 23

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

Come to church on Christmas Eve and sing O Come All Ye Faithful together!