

# “O Antiphons” of Advent

## INTRODUCTION

The “O Antiphons” are sung on the last seven days of Advent. Each antiphon, or short refrain, begins with the word “O.” Each one also calls Jesus, the Son of God, by a different name.

Do this activity with your class or at home with your family. Beginning with December 17, color and cut out the O Antiphon ornament. Read the prayer for that day. Then sing a verse of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” Hang the ornament on a branch you have planted in a vase or on your Christmas tree.

## DECEMBER 17: O WISDOM

**Pray:**                   **O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,  
show us the way to salvation.**

**Sing:**                   O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
Who order all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 18: O LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

**Pray:**                   **O Leader of the House of Israel,  
you gave the law to Moses.  
Come save us with your power!**

**Sing:**                   O come, o come, great Lord of might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 19: O ROOT OF JESSE'S STEM

**Pray:**               **O Root of Jesse's stem,  
you are the sign of God's love.  
Come save us!**

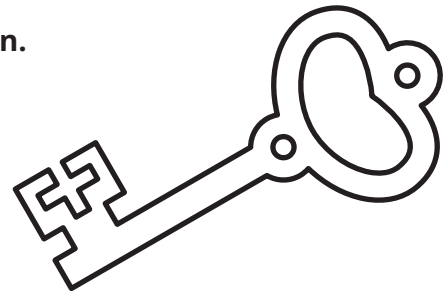
**Sing:**               O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
From ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust your mighty power to save,  
And give us vict'ry o'er the grave.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 20: O KEY OF DAVID

**Pray:**               **O Key of David, you open the gates of Heaven.  
Come free all people from darkness!**

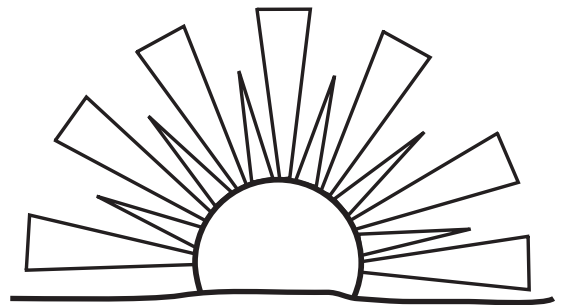
**Sing:**               O come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 21: O RADIANT DAWN

**Pray:**               **O Radiant Dawn, come and shine  
on all people who live in darkness.**

**Sing:**               O come, O Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

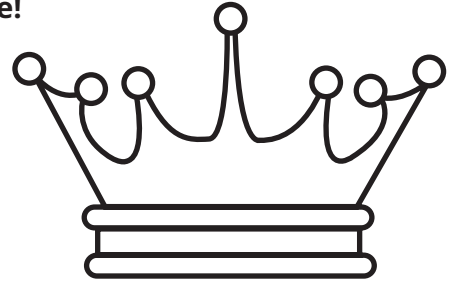


## DECEMBER 22: O KING OF ALL NATIONS

**Pray:**                    **O King of all nations, come and save all people!  
Come and bring peace to the earth.**

**Sing:**                    O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us our King of Peace.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

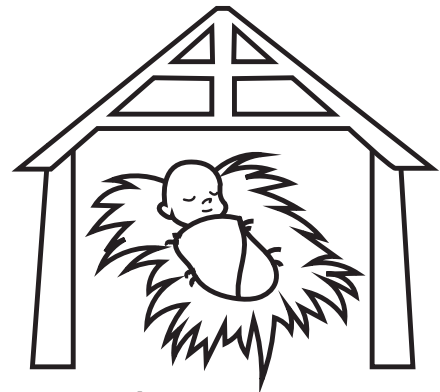


## DECEMBER 23: O EMMANUEL

**Pray:**                    **O Emmanuel, you are our King!  
Come to save us, Lord our God!**

**Sing:**                    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 you, O Israel.**



**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Text: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*; Latin, 9<sup>th</sup> century.

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain.

