

“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. Each one expresses the longing of God’s people for the coming of Christ at Christmas and at the end of time. The O Antiphons have been a part of the Church’s prayer since at least the eighth century.

Do this activity with your class or at home with your family. Beginning with December 17, pray the O Antiphon, and sing the verse of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” assigned to that day. Decide what symbol you will draw on your ornament. Complete your ornament and hang it on a branch you have planted in a vase or on your Christmas tree.

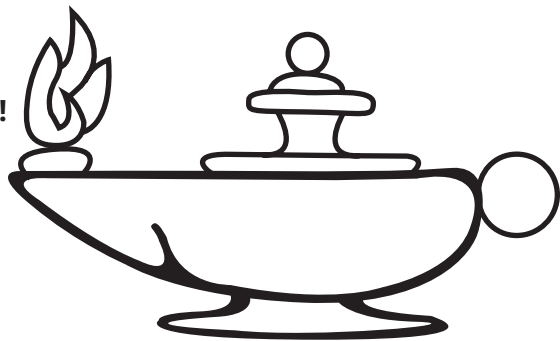
DECEMBER 17: O WISDOM

Symbol: Oil lamp, open book or scroll, dove (Holy Spirit)

Antiphon: **O Wisdom of our God most high,
guiding creation with power and love;
come to teach us the path of knowledge!**

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

Symbol: *Burning bush, stone tablets*

Antiphon: **O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty 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

Symbol: *Flower, root or stem with flower growing from it*

Antiphon: **O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!**

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.

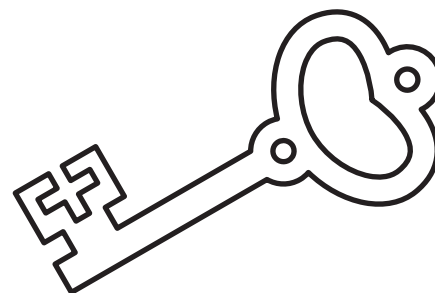


DECEMBER 20: O KEY OF DAVID

Symbol: *Key*

Antiphon: **O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of 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.

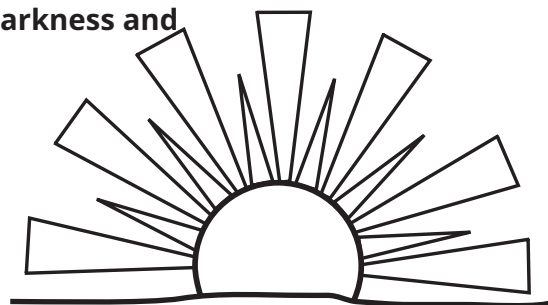


DECEMBER 21: O RADIANT DAWN

Symbol: *Sun*

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

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.



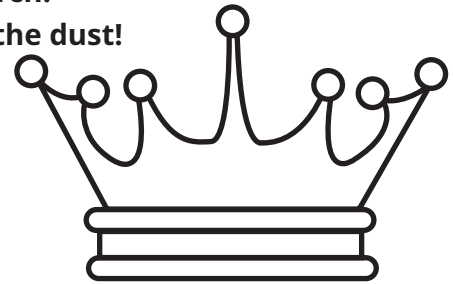
DECEMBER 22: O KING OF ALL NATIONS

Symbol: *Crown*

Antiphon: **O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
Come and save [all], whom you formed from the dust!**

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.



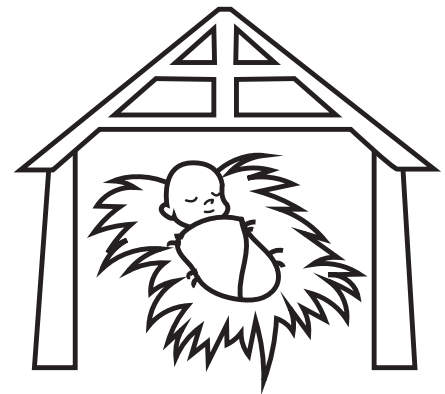
DECEMBER 23: O EMMANUEL

Symbol: *Jesus in the manger*

Antiphon: **O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
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.



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O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Text: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*; Latin, 9th century.

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain.

