

THE 'O ANTIPHONS' OF ADVENT

Each year, as we enter the final stretch of Advent, the church brings forth from its treasury a collection of ancient prayers, “The Great O Antiphons,” which express our longing for the coming of Christ.

From December 17 to December 23, the O Antiphons accompany the recitation of Mary’s Magnificat during Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours; they also serve as the Alleluia verses before the Gospel readings at Mass. (The carol “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is an adaptation of these antiphons.)

Consider making the O Antiphons part of your own evening prayer at the dinner table, around the Advent wreath or before bed.

Source: USCCB, *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

DECEMBER 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18

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

DECEMBER 19

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

DECEMBER 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21

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

DECEMBER 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

DECEMBER 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!