



Advent

From December 17 the “O” Antiphons (or the corresponding hymn verses) may be used before and after readings / prayers.

DECEMBER 17

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*Oh, come,
our Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in their ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

DECEMBER 18

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

*Oh, come, oh come,
our Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

DECEMBER 19

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

*Oh, come,
O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save;
Bring them in vict'ry
through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

DECEMBER 20

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

*Oh, come,
O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly 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 Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

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

DECEMBER 22

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

*Oh, come,
Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

DECEMBER 23

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Saviour:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

*Oh, come, oh come,
Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*