

## Praying the Great “O” Antiphons of Advent

*The seven “O” Antiphons of Advent are ancient prayers (8<sup>th</sup> century) prayed throughout the world from Dec. 17–24. Each petition focuses on a biblical title given to Christ and asks Him to come and fulfill a scriptural promise or prophecy.*

*An “antiphon” is a verse that is spoken before and again after (sometimes even at some point during) a Psalm or New Testament Song.*

*These Great “O” Antiphons may be prayed on the appropriate days immediately before and again repeated after the Song of Zechariah (the “Benedictus” found in Luke 1:68-79), often sung or recited in the morning, and the Song of Mary (the “Magnificat” found in Luke 1:46b-55), often sung or recited in the evening. Additionally they may be prayed before and after the Psalm for the day, or simply as additional prayers as your devotion suggests.*

*The seven stanzas of the hymn, “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” (Lutheran Worship #31) were patterned after these prayers and may be used as well.*

### **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.**

### **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.**

### **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.**

### **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 in the shadow of death.**

### **December 21**

**O** Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:  
**Come and enlighten  
those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.**

### **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.**

### **December 23**

**O** Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:  
**Come and save us, O Lord our God.**