

o antiphons

Since the early church, these Antiphons have been recited preceding the Magnificat during Evening Prayer in the special period known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23. Each one highlights a title for the Messiah taken from the prophesy of Isaiah. They can be recited during individual or family prayers, praising God for the miracle of the Incarnation, or incorporated into Morning or Evening Prayer before the Gospel Canticles.

17 December – *O Sapientia*

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.
(Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1)

18 December – *O Adonai*

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.
(Exodus 3.2, 24.12)

19 December – *O Radix Jesse*

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.
(Isaiah 11.10, 45.14, 52.15; Romans 15.12)

20 December – *O Clavis David*

O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

21 December – *O Oriens*

O Morning Star,

splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten
those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

(Malachi 4.2)

22 December – *O Rex Gentium*

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both
one: Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

(Isaiah 28.16; Ephesians 2.14)

23 December – *O Emmanuel*

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

(Isaiah 7.14)