

O Wisdom Dec. 17 *O Sapientia*

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; Because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore, nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom. She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

Wisdom of Solomon 7.24-8.1

O Wisdom, your words uttered in the beginning generated a world of beauty and goodness, giving purpose and value to each creature: instruct us in the way of prudence that we may nurture the world with justice and joy, that its beauty and goodness may flourish; through the one whom we know as the Wisdom of the Ages, even Christ our Lord.



O Lord of Might Dec. 18 *O Adonai*

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 43.1-7

O Adonai, Master of the universe and ruler of the house of Israel, your mighty acts have rescued remnants of your people from the midst of slavery, exile, war and holocaust: raise your scepter over us that the condition of human dignity may be extended to all people, in all places; for the sake of him whom we know as Lord of all, even Jesus the Christ.



O Root of Jesse Dec. 19 *O Radix Jesse*

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11.1-9

O Root of Jesse, you reach deep down into the darkness of the earth and stir the world's longings for deliverance and hope: raise up within our own lives a spirit of courage and strength, of wisdom and insight, that we may add to the coming of the kingdom; through the merits of the one we know as the beginning of the ages, even Christ our Lord.



O Key of David Dec. 20 *O Clavis David*

**O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and lose the path to misery.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42.1,5-7

O Key of David and throne of glory, you open the way to a promising future and no one closes, you close the way to a formative past and no one opens, release us and all your people from the oppressions of the past that we may face the future with boldness and purpose; through the merits of the Son of David, Jesus Christ our Lord.



O Rising Dawn Dec. 21 **O Oriens**

**O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and deaths dark shadow put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Arise, shine;
for your light
has come, and
the glory of
the LORD has
risen upon
you. For
darkness shall
cover the
earth, and
thick darkness
the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall
come to your light, and kings to the brightness of
your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you; your
sons shall come from far away, and your
daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall
thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the
sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the
nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels
shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and
Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They
shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall
proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Isaiah 60.1-6

**O Rising Dawn, you shine with warm
brightness and clean freshness, chasing the
fearsome shadows of the night away:
enlighten the lives of your people with ideal
visions of harmony and mutuality, so that all
that is alien may finally join in the fullness of
life together; for the sake of him we call the
Light of the world, Christ our Lord.**



O King of Nations Dec. 22 **O Rex Gentium**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

The LORD is
king, he is
robed in
majesty; the
LORD is
robed, he is
girded with
strength. He
has established
the world; it
shall never be
moved; your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods
have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their
roaring.

More majestic than the thunders of mighty
waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the LORD!

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your
house, O LORD, forevermore.

Psalm 93

**O King of nations, your reign spreads
through all the lands, you defend the cause of
the poor and plead for the wretched of the
earth: come and fashion us into a
commonwealth of free and responsible
creatures, that all may discover the depth of
meaning and the grace of belonging; in the
name of him we know as King of Kings, Jesus
Christ, your Son our Lord.**



God with Us Dec. 23 **O Emmanuel**

**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.

Now the birth
of Jesus the
Messiah took
place in this
way. When
his mother
Mary had
been engaged
to Joseph, but
before they
lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy
Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her to public
disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just
when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the
Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take
Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her
is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and
you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his
people from their sins.' All this took place to
fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through
the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and
bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,'
which means, 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1.18-23

**O Emmanuel, Child of Promise and sign of
hope, you come from a distance far beyond
our reach, yet to be closer to us than we are to
ourselves: remain with us in our own days of
expectation that we may give birth to what is
just, true, beautiful and good; through the
same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you
and the Holy Spirit, abides with us, one God
now and forever.**



The Great O-Antiphons of Advent



Ancient devotions

for the 7 days preceding Christmas Eve
Please join us daily starting Dec 17 on
YouTube "StJohnsGloucester" for a
celebration of these great prayers.

*Sing or say the appointed verse of "O come, O come
Emmanuel," read the lesson, sing or say the Magnificat
(below). Finish the devotion with the Prayer and say the
"Our Father".*

The Song of Mary Magnificat—Luke 1:46-55
My soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit
hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath
regarded * the lowliness of his handmaiden. For
behold from henceforth * all generations shall call
me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified
me, * and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on
them that fear him * throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; * he hath
scattered the proud in the imagination of their
hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their
seat, * and hath exalted the humble and meek. He
hath filled the hungry with good things, * and the
rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering
his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, * as he
promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his
seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the
Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.