

## O Antiphons

To be used in Vespers during the seven days prior to Christmas Eve

Each is a prayer addressed to Christ, employing one of the messianic titles and referring to the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the coming of the Messiah.

Each antiphon below is followed by the Isaiah passages and the stanza of the hymn.

*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.*

Isaiah 11:2-3 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 28:29 All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest 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.

*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.*

Isaiah 11:4-5 ...but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Isaiah 33:22 For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*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 11:1    A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:10    On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O KEY OF DAVID and sceptre 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.*

Isaiah 22:22    I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Isaiah 9:7        Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 42:7       ...to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O MORNING STAR, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:  
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

Isaiah 9:2        The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*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 9:6      For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be  
on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4      He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many  
peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning  
hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah 64:8      Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are  
all the work of your hand.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O EMMANUEL, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

Isaiah 7:14      Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive  
and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

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 thee, O Israel.