

THE ANTIPHONS

THE O ANTIPHONS ARE ANCIENT PRAYERS THAT DATE BACK TO AS EARLY AS THE FOURTH CENTURY. THEY REFLECT THE INCREASING URGENCY WITH WHICH THE ISRAELITES BEGGED GOD TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE, FROM THE TIME OF MOSES THROUGH THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

PRAYED EACH DAY FROM DEC. 17 THROUGH DEC. 23, EACH ANTIPHON IS A NAME OF JESUS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. THE PRAYERS REMAIN AS RELEVANT TODAY AS THEY WERE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, AND IMPLORE US TO REMEMBER THAT CHRIST WILL INDEED COME AGAIN.

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL
O COME, O COME EMMANUEL



SAPIENTIA

DECEMBER 17

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.



ADONAI

DECEMBER 18

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.



RADIX JESSE

DECEMBER 19

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.



CLAVIS DAVID

DECEMBER 20

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.



ORIENS

DECEMBER 21

O MORNING STAR, SPLENDOUR OF LIGHT
ETERNAL AND SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: COME
AND ENLIGHTEN THOSE WHO DWELL IN DARKNESS
AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH.



REX GENTIUM

DECEMBER 22

O KING OF THE NATIONS, AND THEIR DESIRE,
THE CORNERSTONE MAKING BOTH ONE: COME
AND SAVE THE HUMAN RACE, WHICH YOU
FASHIONED FROM CLAY.



EMMANUEL

DECEMBER 23

O EMMANUEL, OUR KING AND OUR LAWGIVER,
THE HOPE OF THE NATIONS AND THEIR SAVIOUR:
COME AND SAVE US, O LORD OUR GOD.