

# O antiphons

These antiphons (ANT-ih-fonz) or prayers express the Church's ancient yearning for the coming of the Lord. The verses of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," these antiphons make great mealtime or bedtime prayers in the days before Christmas.



*December 17 — O WISDOM, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*



*December 18 — O SACRED LORD of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.*



*December 19 — O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.*



*December 20 — O KEY OF DAVID, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.*



*December 21 — O RADIANT DAWN, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*



*December 22 — O KING OF ALL THE NATIONS, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.*



*December 23 — O EMMANUEL, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.*