December 17 to 23

The O Antiphons

The Great Antiphons of Advent

Each evening the Church sings one antiphon around Our Lady's Magnificat. Each calls on Christ by a title from the prophets and ends with one word: *Veni*, Come. Read backwards, the first letters spell **ERO CRAS**, "Tomorrow I will be there."

December 17

O Sapientia

O Wisdom

O Wisdom, who camest forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

VENI · COME

December 18

O Adonai

O Adonai

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give him the law on Sinai: come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

December 19

O Radix Iesse

O Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse, who standest as a sign for the peoples, before whom kings shall keep silence, whom the nations shall entreat: come and deliver us, and tarry no longer.

O Radix Iesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.

VENI · COME

December 20

O Clavis David

O Key of David

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, who shuttest and no man openeth: come, and lead the captive from the prison house, who sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

VENI · COME

December 21

O Oriens

O Dawn of the East

O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of justice: come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

December 22

O Rex Gentium

O King of the Nations

O King of the nations, and their Desired One, the Cornerstone who makest both one: come, and save man, whom thou didst form from the clay.

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

VENI · COME

December 23

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God.

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.

VENI · COME