

# "O ANTIPHONS" of Advent

## INTRODUCTION

The "O Antiphons" are sung on the last seven days of Advent. Each antiphon, or short refrain, begins with the word "O." Each one also calls Jesus, the Son of God, by a different name. Each one expresses the longing of God's people for the coming of Christ at Christmas and at the end of time. The O Antiphons have been a part of the Church's prayer since at least the eighth century.

Do this activity with your class or at home with your family. Beginning with December 17, pray the O Antiphon, and sing the verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" assigned to that day. Decide what symbol you will draw on your ornament. Complete your ornament and hang it on a branch you have placed in a vase or on your Christmas tree.

### DECEMBER 17: O WISDOM

#### SYMBOL:

*Oil lamp, open book or scroll, dove  
(Holy Spirit)*

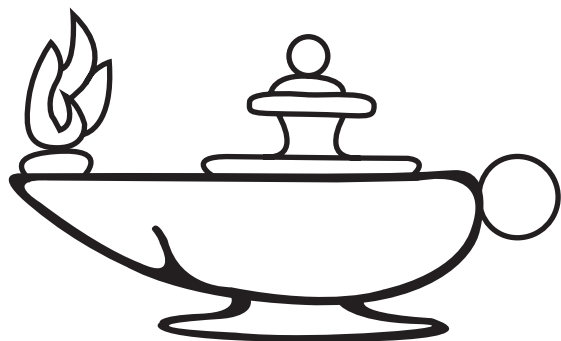
#### ANTIPHON:

**O Wisdom of our God most high,  
guiding creation with power and love;  
come to teach us the path of knowledge!**

#### SING:

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
Who order all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**



### DECEMBER 18: O LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

#### SYMBOL:

*Burning bush, stone tablets*

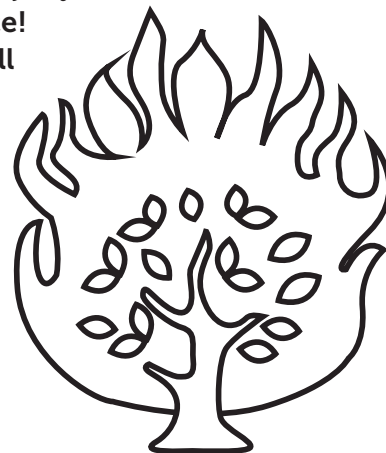
#### ANTIPHON:

**O Leader of the House of Israel,  
you gave the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
Come to rescue us with your mighty power!**

#### SING:

O come, o come, great Lord of might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall  
come to you,  
O Israel.**



# GRADES 5-8 "O ANTIPHONS" of Advent

## DECEMBER 19: O ROOT OF JESSE'S STEM

### SYMBOL:

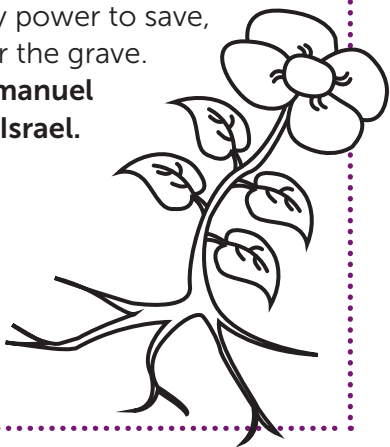
*Flower, root, or stem with flower growing from it*

### ANTIPHON:

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people;  
Come to save us without delay!

### SING:

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
From ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust your mighty power to save,  
And give us vict'ry o'er the grave.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**  
**shall come to you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 20: O KEY OF DAVID

### SYMBOL:

*Key*

### ANTIPHON:

O Key of David, opening the gates of  
God's eternal Kingdom;  
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

### SING:

O come, O 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 you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 21: O RADIANT DAWN

### SYMBOL:

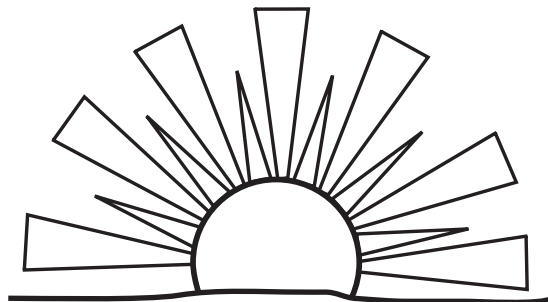
*Sun*

### ANTIPHON:

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice;  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and  
the shadow of death.

### SING:

O come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadow put to flight.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**



# GRADES 5-8 "O ANTIPHONS" of Advent

## DECEMBER 22: O KING OF ALL NATIONS

### SYMBOL:

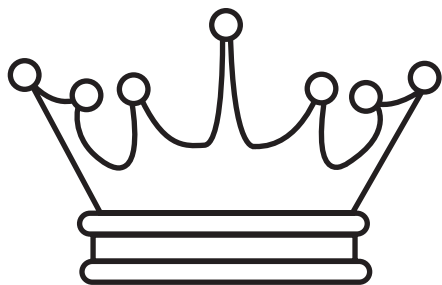
Crown

### ANTIPHON:

O King of all nations,  
and keystone of the Church;  
Come and save [all],  
whom you formed from the dust!

### SING:

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us our King of Peace.  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**



## DECEMBER 23: O EMMANUEL

### SYMBOL:

Jesus in the manger

### ANTIPHON:

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law;  
come to save us, Lord our God!

### SING:

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.**



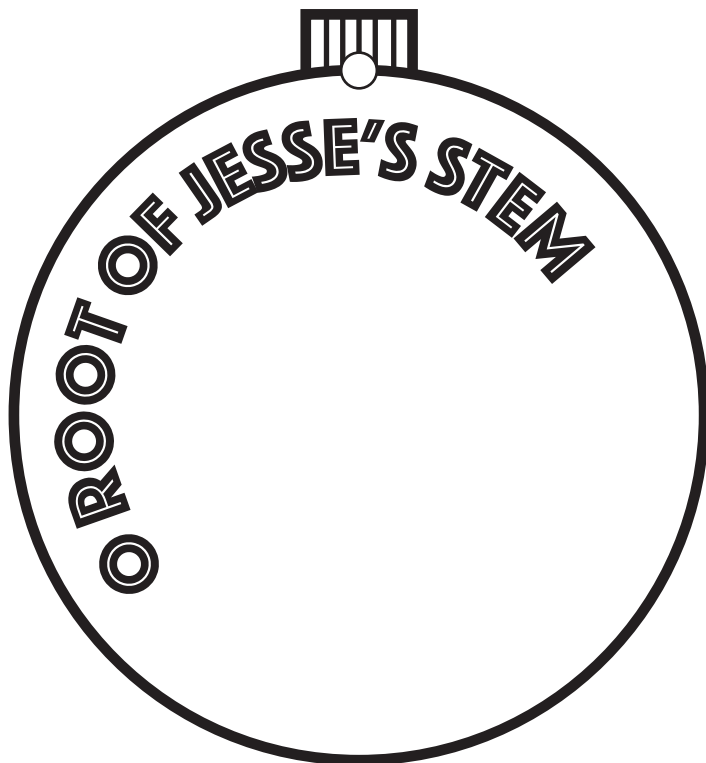
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### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*; Latin, 9<sup>th</sup> century.

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain.

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