

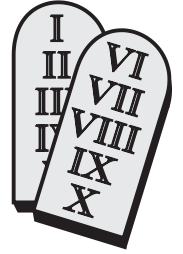
The O Antiphons

These are traditional prayers said before Christmas Eve. A different one is said each day for seven days. The images in these prayers are taken from the Jewish tradition and express their hope for the coming of a Savior. We can pray them to help us prepare to celebrate Christmas.



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.

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.



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.

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.

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



O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.