

The “O” Prayers (Antiphons)

O Wisdom,

coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
pervading and permeating all creation,
you order all things with strength and gentleness:
Come now and teach us the way to salvation.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai,

Ruler of the house of Israel,
you appeared in the burning bush to Moses
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come with outstretched arm to save us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse,

rising as a sign for all the peoples,
before you earthly rulers will keep silent,
and nations give you honor:
Come quickly to deliver us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David,

Scepter over the house of Israel,
you open and no one can close,
you close and no one can open:
Come to set free the prisoners
who live in darkness and the shadow of death.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn,

splendor of eternal light,
Sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who live in darkness
and in the shadow of death.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations,
Monarch for whom the people long,
you are the Cornerstone uniting all humanity:
Come, save us all,
whom you formed out of clay.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Immanuel,
our Sovereign and Lawgiver,
desire of the nations and Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.
Come, Lord Jesus.

(a closing prayer):
God of grace,
ever faithful to your promises,
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior’s coming
and looks forward with longing
to his return at the end of time.
Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes,
for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.



These prayers are called the “O” Prayers or “O” Antiphons.
An antiphon is a prayer said or sung during worship,
especially in connection with the psalms and canticles.
They are so named because each prayer begins with “O.”

While the author of the “O” Prayers is anonymous, we know that
they were being used by Christians by the ninth century.

Traditionally, one of these prayers is said on each day
from December 17 through December 23.

However, they may be used in a variety of ways
in daily prayer or public worship during the Advent season.

See the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 1993), pp. 166–167.