

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols The Great O Antiphons—From Darkness to Light

Today's Lessons and Carols are built around the Great O Antiphons of Advent, ancient chants that originated in the 5th or 6th century. Each chant describes a characteristic or name of God and a vision of the time when spiritual darkness turns to light. As we light the candles, may we each hold in our heart all who seek the healing light of justice, healing, mercy, and joy.

The seven O Antiphons bring a wide representation of imagery and imagination to describe the Divine: Wisdom; Source of Order; Fire; Morning Star; Cornerstone; Root; Key; and finally: God that dwells within us. As you hear them, you may want to use this imagery to help you experience that particular aspect of the sacred in your life or in the world around you.

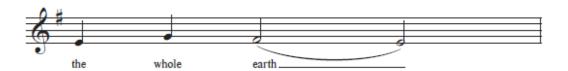
At the sound of the bells, remain seated.

ADVENT RESPONSORY





R. And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering







R. Tell us: art thou he that should come to reign over thy peo - ple Is - ra - el?____

All stand.

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

Presider: The Lord is my light and my salvation:

All: Our God shall change the darkness into light.

P: Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of the day and of the night.

As darkness falls, we ask you to reveal to us the light of your presence. Dispel the darkness of our hearts and of our world, that we may walk as children of light and sing your praises.

All: Blessed be God forever. Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN 102 v. 1, 2, 4, 5

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn printed on next page







- 2. He came down to earth from Heaven,Who is God and Lord of all.And his shelter was a stable,And his cradle was a stall.With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3. For he is our life-long pattern; Daily, when on earth he grew. He was tempted, scorned, rejected, Tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness, And he shares in all our gladness.
- 4. And our eyes at least shall see him, Through his own redeeming love; For that child who seemed so helpless Is our Lord in heaven above. And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

ADVENT BIDDING

The people are seated.

FIRST LESSON O Sapientia

Ecclesiasticus 24:39

'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist.

I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss.

Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway.

Among all these I sought a resting-place; in whose territory should I abide?

"Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance."

Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.

ANTIPHON

O Sapientia

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:

Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

Silence follows.

COLLECT

ANTHEM Maria Walks Amidst the Thorn

SECOND LESSON

Ieremiah 23:5-6

"The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

ANTIPHON

O Adonai

O Lord, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come, and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Silence follows.

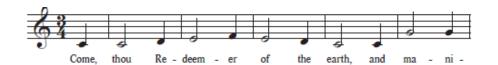
COLLECT

All stand.

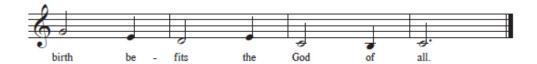
HYMN Come

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Hymn is printed on the next page







- 2. Begotten of no human will But of the Spirit, thou art still The Word of God, in flesh arrayed The Savior, now to man displayed.
- 3. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright And darkness glow with newborn light, No more shall night extinguish day, Where love's bright beams their power display.

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³ and he will delicate in the form of the LORD—

⁸ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowled

for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come, and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Silence follows.

COLLECT

ANTHEM The truth from above

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 22:21-23

I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the people of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat of honor for the house of his father.

ANTIPHON

O Clavis David

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open:

Come, and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Silence follows.

COLLECT

All stand.

HYMN 68 Re

Rejoice, rejoice believers

Hymn printed on the next page



Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: Llangloffan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-7

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope."

This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:
I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

ANTIPHON O Oriens

O Morning Star, splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come, and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

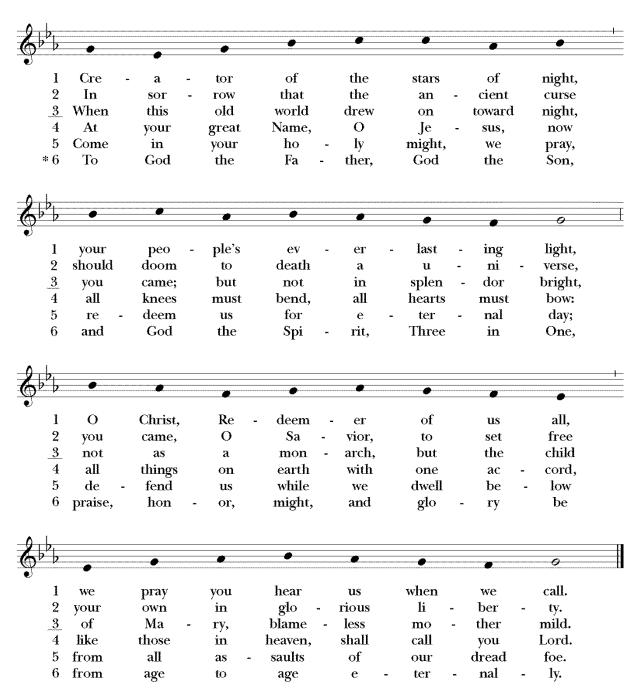
Silence follows.

COLLECT

HYMN 60 v, 1, 3, 4, 5

Creator of the stars of night

Hymn is printed on the next page



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SIXTH LESSON O Rex

O Rex gentium

Baruch 36:5:9

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;

look towards the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east

at the word of the Holy One,

rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,

led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,

carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low

and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,

so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree

have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,

in the light of his glory,

with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

ANTIPHON

O. Rex Gentium

O King of the Nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come, and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

Silence follows.

COLLECT

ANTHEM Ave Maria

Jacob Arcadelt, b. 1501

SEVENTH LESSON

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Silence follows.

COLLECT





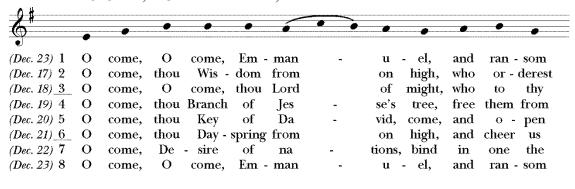
This hymn may be performed in equal note values:

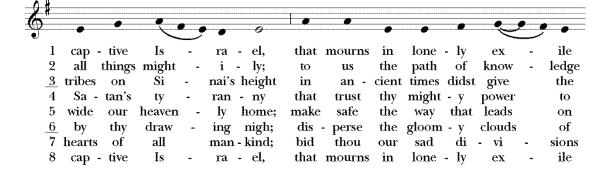
Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

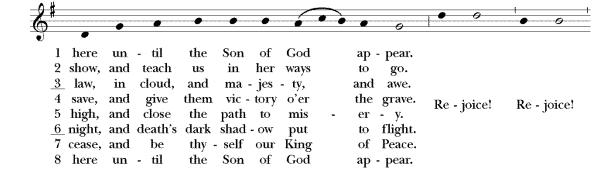
PRAYERS



HYMN 56 O Come, o Come Emmanuel,









The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THE SINGERS

Laura Andrews Nathaniel Johnson Valerie Abrahamsen Jenny Karstad

Carol Beninati Bruce Landenberger

Pam Carr Greg Lesch

Paul Dedell Margery McCrum Ann Ely Jared Rediske

Thomas Ely Christopher Wesolowski

Caleb Fritz Marian Wojcik
Clara Fritz Matt Wojcik
Karen Guthrie Rosie Wojcik

Judy Hueber Jonah Johnson

READERS: MUSIC DIRECTOR: Susan Dedell

Gregory Lesch
Alix Fedoruk

PRESIDERS: Mary D. Lindquist, Rector &
Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, Seminarian

Betsy Bates

Yoojin Janice Lee Ieff Lewis

Annie Landenberger David Treadwell

PRAYER LEADERS:

Cary Gaunt & Laura Andrews

THANKS to Karen Guthrie for recording assistance

UPCOMING SERVICES

The Longest Night Service, Sunday December 20, 4 pm

Christmas Eve Service and Christmas Pageant, Thursday December 24, 4 pm

Christmas Eve Service, Thursday December 24, 8 pm

Christmas Day Service, Friday December 25, 10 am

Links to all the services can be found on St. Michael's website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org