



What are the "O Antiphons"?



The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

The Importance of "O Antiphons"



The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.



FAMILY BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ADVENT LIGHTING OF CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH

When the family gathers for their evening or night prayers on Sundays in Advent, or every day of Advent, the mother or father or one of the children lead with an appropriate Advent Song and then prays the following prayers:



MAGNIFICAT

My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices, my Saviour
He looks on his servant in her lowliness,
Henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The almighty works marvels for me.
Holy His Name! his mercy is from age to age.
On those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
And scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones and
raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
Sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant.
Remembering his mercy, the mercy promised
To our fathers, to Abraham and his sons forever.
Amen.

**FIRST CANDLE:
FIRST WEEK OF
ADVENT**

God our Father, you called the prophets to make known your ways to you chosen people. They spoke a message of peace and mercy and put fort the promise of salvation as we await the feast of Christ's birth may we listen to your word, and may we speak words of kindness and forgiveness to one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Light the First Candle
Say the advent litany and
the advent prayer.*

ADVENT LITANY

This litany may be prayed at a gathering during the season of advent. The response may be sung if desired.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Come Lord Jesus!

You are the light in our darkness

Come Lord Jesus!

Son of God, save us from our sin

Come Lord Jesus!

Bring hope into the lives of all people

Come Lord Jesus!

Give your peace to all nations

Come Lord Jesus!

Be the joy of all who love you
Come Lord Jesus!

Bless us as we gather here in
you name
Come Lord Jesus!

Lord Jesus, stay with us
Come Lord Jesus!

May Christ give us his peace
and joy, and let us share them
with others all praise and glory
are his forever.

All answer: AMEN!

ADVENT PRAYER

Maranatha!
Come Lord Jesus!
Come into my helplessness,
Come into my brokenness,
Come into my failure,
Come into my grieving,
Come into my aloneness,
Come into my weakness,
Come into my doubting,
Come into my searching,
Come into my living.
Come into my dying.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Preparing Our Hearts for



**SECOND CANDLE:
SECOND WEEK OF
ADVENT**

Lord God, you chose John the Baptist to prepare your people for the coming of the Saviour. As we prepare for Christmas help us to straighten our lives. With your grace may we renew our hearts, overcome our sins and give greater welcome to Jesus who is among us. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Light the Second Candle
Say the advent litany and the
advent prayer.*

**THIRD CANDLE:
THIRD WEEK OF
ADVENT**

God our Father, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son. On Calvary Jesus gave Mary to us to be our Mother. As the feast of His birthday draws near, help us to learn from Mary how to put all our trust in you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Light the Third Candle
Say the advent litany and the
advent prayer.*

**FOURTH CANDLE:
FOURTH WEEK OF
ADVENT**

Heavenly Father, you revealed to us the coming of your Son by the message of the angel Gabriel. We now look forward to his coming again in glory. Fill us with your love and lead us to the happiness of your eternal home with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Light the Fourth Candle
Say the advent litany and the
advent prayer.*

