

Introduction to our Advent Theme: The O Antiphons

The paraphrases of Holy Scripture known as The Great “O” Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers as most expressive of the Church’s desire for the Savior. They are each awe-filled expressions of that Advent spirit that is focused on Christ’s coming—His historical coming on Christmas, His continued coming in the Means of Grace, and His second coming on Judgment Day. Each antiphon consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament, asking Him to come and fulfill some Scriptural promise or prophecy. They also are the basis of one of our greatest Advent hymns, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

✠ Opening Prayer – “O Key of David” ✠

P O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #66

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P As we wait for the second coming of Christ, the Wisdom of God and Key who opens heaven’s gates, let us prepare our hearts for His arrival by confessing our sins.

G Almighty and merciful Father, we confess that we have sought knowledge apart from You, that we have heard Your commandments but disobeyed them, that our faith has been easily shaken, that we have closed our hearts to Your mercy, that we have walked in shadows of doubt and despair, that we follow the lead of the devil, and that we have forgotten about Your presence in our lives. Come to us, O LORD, forgive us for Jesus’ sake and restore us according to Your mercy.

P Hear the good news of Advent hope: Jesus, the Wisdom of

Choir

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Hymn: TLH #58:1, 3-5

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee”



Revelation 3:7

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

The “O” Antiphons: O Key of David

*“O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel,
You open and no one can close,
You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the
prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.”*

The Offertory

TLH #62

G ♪ *Oh, come, Thou 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 thee, O Israel.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #105:1-2, 6-8

“Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons”

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

Hymn: TLH #67:1, 7

“The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us”

God, teaches us the way of truth. Jesus, our Lord, delivers us from sin and death. Jesus, the Root of Jesse, deepens our trust. Jesus, the Key of David, opens to us the kingdom of grace. Jesus, the Dayspring, brings light to our darkness. Jesus, the King of the Nations, unites us in His peace. Jesus, Immanuel – God with us – forgives, renews, and restores.

Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I proclaim to you: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Response: “A Litany for Advent”

Tune of WS #789

G ♪ *Lord Jesus, come to us, we pray,
Bring us Your truth, Show us Your way,
As once the prophets did foretell,
Oh, come to us, Immanuel.*

*The universe is in our care,
Help us protect, help us to share,
Send us Your peace, Your glad Noel,
Oh, come to us, Immanuel.*

*Our world is torn in war and sin.
Our people hurt without, within.
Your healing love will make us well,
Oh, come to us, Immanuel.*

*Prepare our hearts, tell all the earth
That we may celebrate Your birth.
Oh, enter in our lives to dwell.
Oh, come to us Immanuel.*

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P O Key of David, open the door of salvation for all who seek You. Free us from the chains of sin and lead us into the fullness of Your love and mercy.

G Amen.





Isaiah 42:1-7

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.



John 10:1-10

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



Romans 6:17-23

But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Response to the Word

TLH #70:1

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

G ♪ *Hosanna to the living Lord!
Hosanna to the Incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King,
Let earth, let heaven, hosanna sing.*

Confession of Faith

Explanation of the 2nd Article

G **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.