

## Prayers for the Week Before Christmas

### The Great "O" - Antiphons

Here are prayers for this last week of Advent. They have inspired one of the favourite hymns of Advent, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

#### December 17

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of Most High God, everywhere in everything organizing all things, come and teach us to be prudent. Amen

Read *Hebrews 1:1-4*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 2

O Come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

#### December 18

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us. Amen

Read *Psalms 19*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 3

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the Law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

#### December 19

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are silent, to whom the nations will bow down, come quickly to deliver us. Amen

Read *Isaiah 11:1-9*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 4

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

### **December 20**

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

Read *Isaiah 61:1-4*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 5

O Come, O 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 you, O Israel.

### **December 21**

O Dayspring, splendour of light everlasting: come and enlighten those who sit in  
darkness and the shadow of death. Amen

Read *Psalms 23*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 6

O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer, O Sun of Justice, now draw near;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

### **December 22**

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:  
come and save us all whom you formed out of clay. Amen

Read *Genesis 2:4-25*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 7

O Come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## **December 23**

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God. Amen

Read *Colossians 1:9-14*

Sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 8

O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.