

# Great Advent Antiphons

16 (or 17)-24 December

In monastic use, these Antiphons were sung in the Office of Vespers before and after the Magnificat during the latter days of Advent, and are still used in some parishes at Evening Prayer. Two columns are given below, one for English use and one for Roman use, both of which appear in some Anglican service books.

## Part 1. English Rite I

### 16 December

English use

Roman use

#### Antiphon

O Sapientia

Cf. Ecclesiasticus  
1:1,3,4

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 17 Decembris

There is no Antiphon for this day in Roman use.

### 17 December

English use

Roman use

#### Antiphon

O Adonai

Cf. Exodus 3:2; 19:6;  
14:21

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 18 Decembris

#### Antiphon

O Sapientia

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### 18 December

English use

Roman use

#### Antiphon

O Radix Jesse

Cf. Isaiah 11:10

#### Antiphon

O Adonai

Cf. Exodus 3:2; 19:6;  
14:21

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, unto whom the Gentiles shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

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O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 18 Decembris

## 19 December

English use

**Antiphon**

O Clavis  
David

Cf. Isaiah 22:22

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest, and no man openeth: Come and bring the prisoners out of the prison-house, them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 20 Decembris

Roman use

**Antiphon**

O Radix Jesse

Cf. Isaiah 11:10

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, unto whom the Gentiles shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

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## 20 December

English use

**Antiphon**

O Oriens

Cf. Malachi 4:12

O Day-spring, Brightness of the Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 21 Decembris

Roman use

**Antiphon**

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David

Cf. Isaiah 22:22

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## 21 December

English use

### Antiphon

O Rex  
gentium

Cf. Haggai 2:7

O King of nations, and their Desire; the cornerstone, who makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom you formedst of clay.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 22 Decembris

Roman use

### Antiphon

O Oriens

Cf. Malachi 4:12

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## 22 December

English use

### Antiphon

O Emmanuel

Cf. Isaiah 8:8; 33:22

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

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## 23 December

English use

### Antiphon

O Virgo  
virginum

Cf. Isaiah 7:4;  
Matthew 1:21

O Virgin if virgins, how shall this be? for neither before thee was any seen like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

The monastic diurnal, or, Day hours of the Monastic breviary

Roman use

### Antiphon

O Emmanuel

Cf. Isaiah 8:8; 33:22

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.

according to the holy rule of Saint Benedict (1932), Great Advent  
Antiphons: 23 December (on Canticum Magnificat)

Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 23 Decembris

## 24 December

### Antiphon

Hodie Christus

Anonymous

To-day the Christ is born; to-day hath a Saviour appeared; to-day on earth angels are singing, archangels rejoicing; to-day the righteous exult and say, "Glory to God in the highest, alleluia."

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), In Nativitate Domini: Ad II Vesperas (on Canticum Magnificat)

## Part 2. English Rite II

### 16 December

English use

Roman use

**Antiphon** O Sapientia Cf. Ecclesiasticus  
1:1,3,4

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 17 Decembris

There is no Antiphon for this day in Roman use.

### 17 December

English use

Roman use

**Antiphon** O Adonai Cf. Exodus 3:2; 19:6;  
14:21

**Antiphon** O Sapientia Cf. Ecclesiasticus  
1:1,3,4

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, you appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

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O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

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### 18 December

English use

Roman use

**Antiphon** O Radix Jesse Cf. Isaiah 11:10

**Antiphon** O Adonai Cf. Exodus 3:2; 19:6;  
14:21

O Root of Jesse, you stand for an ensign of the people; before you monarchs shall shut their mouths, and nations shall bow in worship: Come and deliver us, do not delay.

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, you appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 19 Decembris

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Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 18 Decembris

## 19 December

English use

**Antiphon**

O Clavis  
David

Cf. Isaiah 22:22

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 bring the captives out of the prison house, those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

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Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 20 Decembris

Roman use

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Cf. Isaiah 11:10

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Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 19 Decembris

## 20 December

English use

**Antiphon**

O Oriens

Cf. Malachi 4:12

O Dayspring, Brightness of the Light eternal, and Sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 21 Decembris

Roman use

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Magnificat: Die 20 Decembris

## 21 December

English use

**Antiphon**

O Rex  
gentium

Cf. Haggai 2:7

Roman use

**Antiphon**

O Oriens

Cf. Malachi 4:12

O King of nations, and their Desire, you are the cornerstone, who makes us both one: Come and save the creature whom you fashioned of clay.

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## 22 December

English use

**Antiphon** O Emmanuel Cf. Isaiah 8:8; 33:22

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

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Roman use

**Antiphon** O Rex gentium Cf. Haggai 2:7

O King of nations, and their Desire, you are the cornerstone, who makes us both one: Come and save the creature whom you fashioned of clay.

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## 23 December

English use

**Antiphon** O Virgo virginum Cf. Isaiah 7:4; Matthew 1:21

O Virgin if virgins, how shall this be? Never before was there anyone like you, nor shall there be hereafter. Daughters of Jerusalem, why do you marvel at me? What you are seeing is a divine mystery.

The monastic diurnal, or, Day hours of the Monastic breviary according to the holy rule of Saint Benedict (1932), Great Advent Antiphons: 23 December (on Canticle Magnificat)

Roman use

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## 24 December

**Antiphon** Hodie Christus Anonymous

Today the Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared; today on earth angels are singing,

archangels rejoicing; today the righteous exult and say, "Glory to God in the highest, alleluia."

[Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum \(1934\), In Nativitate Domini: Ad II Vesperas \(on Canticle Magnificat\)](#)

## Parte 3. Español

### 16 de diciembre

Uso inglés

Uso romano

#### Antífona

O Sapientia

Cf. Eclesiástico  
1:1,3,4

Oh Sabiduría, que procediste de la boca del Altísimo, y te extiendes desde un costado de la tierra hasta el otro, fuerte y dulcemente enderezando todas las cosas: Ven y enséñanos el camino de la prudencia.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 17 Decembris

Este día no tiene antífona en el uso romano.

### 17 de diciembre

Uso inglés

Uso romano

#### Antífona

O Adonai

Cf. Éxodo 3:2; 19:6;  
14:21

Oh Adonai, y jefe de la casa de Israel, que apareciste en la zarza a Moisés en una llama de incendio, y le diste la ley en Sinaí: Ven a redimirnos con un brazo extendido.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad Magnificat: Die 18 Decembris

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### 18 de diciembre

Uso inglés

Uso romano

#### Antífona

O Radix Jesse

Cf. Isaías 11:10

O Raíz de Isaí, que te pones por estandarte de los pueblos, a quien los reyes se callan la boca, a quien adora humillado el mundo entero: Ven a

#### Antífona

O Adonai

Cf. Éxodos 3:2; 19:6;  
14:21

Oh Adonai, y jefe de la casa de Israel, que apareciste en la zarza a Moisés en una llama de incendio, y le diste la ley en Sinaí: Ven a redimirnos con un brazo

libertarnos; no tardes ya.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 19 Decembris

extendido.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 18 Decembris

## 19 de diciembre

Uso inglés

**Antífona**

O Clavis  
David

Cf. Isaías 22:22

O Llave de David y Cetro de la casa de Israel, abres, y nadie puede cerrar; cierras, y nadie puede abrir: Ven a libertar a los cautivos en la prisión, y a los que en tinieblas y sombras de muerte te esperan.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 20 Decembris

Uso romano

**Antífona**

O Radix Jesse

Cf. Isaías 11:10

O Raíz de Isaí, que te pones por estandarte de los pueblos, a quien los reyes se callan la boca, a quien adora humillado el mundo entero: Ven a libertarnos; no tardes ya.

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Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 19 Decembris

## 20 de diciembre

Uso inglés

**Antífona**

O Oriens

Cf. Malaquías 4:12

O Sol naciente, Esplendor de la Luz eterna y Sol de justicia: Ven a iluminar a los que yacen en tinieblas y sombras de muerte.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 21 Decembris

Uso romano

**Antífona**

O Clavis  
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O Llave de David y Cetro de la casa de Israel, abres, y nadie puede cerrar; cierras, y nadie puede abrir: Ven a libertar a los cautivos en la prisión, y a los que en tinieblas y sombras de muerte te esperan.

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Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 20 Decembris

## 21 de diciembre

Uso inglés

**Antífona**

O Rex  
gentium

Cf. Ageo 2:7

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 22 Decembris

Uso romano

**Antífona**

O Oriens

Cf. Malaquías 4:12

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Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 23 Decembris

Oh Rey de las naciones y su Deseo,  
Piedra angular que unes a los pueblos:  
Ven a libertar a los hombres que has  
creado del polvo.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 22 Decembris

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eterna y Sol de justicia: Ven a iluminar a  
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muerte.

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Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 21 Decembris

## 22 de diciembre

Uso inglés

**Antífona** O Emmanuel Cf. Isaías 8:8; 33:22

Oh Emanuel, nuestro Rey y Legislador,  
Salvador de las naciones, Esperanza de  
los pueblos: Ven a libertarnos, Señor,  
Dios nuestro.

Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD.  
Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a  
Solesmensibus monachis restitutum (1934), Antiphonæ Majores, ad  
Magnificat: Die 23 Decembris

Uso romano

**Antífona** O Rex  
gentium Cf. Ageo 2:7

Oh Rey de las naciones y su Deseo,  
Piedra angular que unes a los pueblos:  
Ven a libertar a los hombres que has  
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Magnificat: Die 22 Decembris

## 23 de diciembre

Uso inglés

**Antífona** O Virgo  
virginum Cf. Isaías 7:4; Mateo  
1:21

Oh Virgen de las vírgenes, ¿cómo puede  
ser esto? porque no se vio ninguna como  
ti antes de ti, ni la habrá en el porvenir.  
Hijas de Jerusalén, ¿por qué se  
maravillan de mí? Lo que veis es divino  
misterio.

The monastic diurnal, or, Day hours of the Monastic breviary  
according to the holy rule of Saint Benedict (1932), Great Advent  
Antiphons: 23 December (on Canticle Magnificat)

Uso romano

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Oh Emanuel, nuestro Rey y Legislador,  
Salvador de las naciones, Esperanza de  
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Magnificat: Die 23 Decembris

## 24 de diciembre

**Antífona** Hodie Christus Anónimo

Hoy nace el Cristo; hoy aparece el Salvador; hoy sobre la tierra cantan los ángeles, se regocijan los arcángeles; hoy los justos exultan y dicen, "Gloria a Dios en las alturas, aleluya."

[Antiphonale monasticum pro diurnis horis juxta vota RR. DD. Abbatum Congregationum Confoederatum Ordinis Sancti Benedicti a Solesmensibus monachis restitutum \(1934\), In Nativitate Domini: Ad II Vesperas \(on Canticle Magnificat\)](#)