

# Advent Exhortation to Repentance and Prayer of Sorrow

We consider our lives and express our sorrow. Our prayer is based on seven “O Antiphons,” titles for the coming Messiah taken from the Word of God and used in the Advent Liturgy leading to Christmas. The Latin title is printed in large type for each Antiphon. The first letter of each title forms in reverse an acrostic spelling out the Latin prayer: “**Ero Cras**”: *I will be with you tomorrow.*

- Pray the first part of each antiphon “O Wisdom...”
- Pause in silence to reflect using, if helpful, the thoughts in the sentences printed in *cursive type*.
- Conclude with the acclamation for each: “Come...”

## Sapientia

O WISDOM, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care.

*The word of the Gospel in all its strength and all its tender care, must rule in my heart. Do I live by God’s wisdom each day? Am I strong in facing the challenges life brings my way? Am I patient and tender in my care for those whom God gives me in life? For others? For those in need?*

Come and show your people the way to salvation!

## Adonai

O SACRED LORD of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain:

*We are called to live each of the Ten Commandments. Have I given God due place in my life? Do I worship with His people each Sunday? Am I honest and wholesome with respect to my family? Do I cherish my life and that of others? Honor my sexuality? Speak the truth? Respect the goods and lives of my neighbors?*

Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free!

## Radix

O FLOWER OF JESSE’S STEM, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you.

*In my civic duty do I bring the Gospel to life in the world? Do I work to be sure our laws and government respect and serve the life, liberty and true happiness that come from God, not man?*

Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid!

## Clavis

O KEY of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven:

*Do I live by my willfulness or according to my own needs? Does self-service lock me in misery or loneliness and bring the same to others?*

Come break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom!



**riens**

O RADIANT DAWN, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:

*Justice demands of me honesty in all actions and truth in all speech. Has my light been hidden or does it shine with the splendor of God's love?*

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death!



**ex**

O KING of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of mankind.

*The joy I should find in others and in our Maker is sometimes disfigured by pride, by my jealousy of others' fortune or by impatience in realizing my own best goals.*

Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust!



**mmanuel**

O EMMANUEL, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people.

*Jesus promises to "be with us" each day. Is my heart centered on the warmth of his friendship? Do I lose myself in desires for the passing things of this world? Am I a slave of unnecessary possessions or of inappropriate pleasures?*

Come and set us free, Lord our God!

Penitent: Have Mercy on us Lord, for we place our trust in you!



**ur Father**, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth

as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Penitent: O God, during this season of hope you call your beloved people to arise in joy to greet the celebration of the coming of your Son, the promised Messiah. Free us from all that would keep us from looking forward with eagerness to his return in glory. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen!