

'O' Antiphons 2018

Monday 17th December: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

- "The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:2-3)
- "[...] he is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in wisdom." (Isaiah 28:29)

For discussion or meditation: Where do you see the Wisdom of God at work? In the ordered created world (natural theology)? [But what about natural disasters and diseases?] Or in the person and work of the crucified Christ (I Cor 1:22-24) (revealed theology)?

Tuesday 18th December: O Adonai (O Lord)

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

- "[...] but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins." (Isaiah 11:4-5)
- "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us." (Isaiah 33:22)

For discussion or meditation: Compare YHWH/The LORD (I am who I am, Ex 3:14-15) with Jesus' use of 'I am' (John 8:58 and all the 'I am the . . .' sayings; also Mark 6:50 & 14:62)

Wednesday 19th December: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

*O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.*

- "A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1)
- "On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:10)

For discussion or meditation: Why does Isaiah take us back to Jesse rather than David? Is our faith truly *radical* – rooted in Christ and his forebears in God's people Israel? Roots keep us in position, give a sense of belonging, and also feed us so that we can grow and produce seed or fruit.

Thursday 20th December: O Clavis David (O Key of David)

*O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

- "I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open." (Isaiah 22:22)
- "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore." (Isaiah 9:7)
- "...To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." (Isaiah 42:7)

For discussion or meditation: In what ways has Jesus unlocked the prison of our self-centredness? How is Jesus the 'key' to understanding our and the world's purpose?

Friday 21st December: O Oriens (O Morning Star [or Dayspring or Rising Sun])

*O Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

- "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)
- Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1-2)

For discussion or meditation: When and how has the 'light dawned' on you in Christ? We should *orient* our lives by following Jesus, going in his direction. (Re-orientation = repentance.)

Saturday 22nd December: O Rex Gentium (O King of the nations)

*O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.*

- "For a child has been born for us, a son given us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)
- "He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

For discussion or meditation: Jesus was crucified with the charge 'King of the Jews' over him but the Messiah (anointed one) is King over all (Matthew 28:18)

Sunday 23rd December: O Emmanuel (O God with us)

*O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

- "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

For discussion or meditation: "I am with you always. . . (Matthew 28:20). How does Jesus as 'God with us' undergird everything and explain how all the preceding 'O' titles can be true?

It is I, Jesus, . . . I am the root and descendent of David, the bright morning star (Rev 22:16-17)

First letters of the names backwards: ERO CRAS = I will be (with you) tomorrow!

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22:20)