

have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church. Today we are perhaps more familiar with them as the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." In the revised liturgy, they are also proposed as verses for the Gospel Acclamation at daily Mass, which is how we will use them this year.

Each of these special prayers highlights a title for the Messiah, and a plea that he come: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Each one refers to a prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - **E**mmanuel, **R**ex, **O**riens, **C**lavis, **R**adix, **A**donai, **S**apientia - the Latin words "EROCRAS" are formed, meaning, "I will be tomorrow." Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, "Tomorrow, I will be with you." So the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion.

## FRIDAY

### Advent II Weekday

#### Entrance Antiphon

**Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to his poor.**

First Reading: Genesis 49:2. 8-10

The sceptre shall not pass from Judah.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

**O Wisdom of the Most High, ordering all things with strength and gentleness, come and teach us the way of truth.**

#### Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-17: A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.

#### Communion Antiphon

**Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.**

## SATURDAY

### Advent II Weekday

#### Entrance Antiphon

**Christ our King is coming, he is the Lamb foretold by John.**

#### First Reading

Jeremiah 23:5-8: I will raise a virtuous Branch for David.

#### Response to the Psalm

**In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

**O Adonai, Ruler of the House of Israel, who gave the law to Moses on Sinai, come and save us with outstretched arm.**

#### Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-24: Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

#### Communion Antiphon

**His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.**

THE MARIAN ANTHEM (Alma Redemptoris Mater)

**Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen—yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.**



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# WEEKDAY MASS SHEET

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

13th–18th December 2021



## THE SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

'From Thursday of the Second Week the readings of the gospel about John the Baptist begin. The first reading is either a continuation of Isaiah or a text chosen in view of the gospel.' (GIL 94) Advent II (17th - 24th December): 'In the last week before Christmas the events that immediately prepared for the Lord's birth are presented from Matthew and Luke. The texts in the first reading, chosen in view of the gospel reading, are from different Old Testament books and include important Messianic prophecies.' (GIL 94)

## OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

## HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS (December)

Catechists: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## MONDAY

### Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

[COMMEMORATION]

**Saint Lucy:** a Sicilian martyr who died in the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian; she is an example of innocence and faithfulness, and her cult was very popular in the early Church.

Entrance Antiphon

**Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear!**

First Reading

Numbers 24:2-7.15-17: A star from Jacob takes the leadership.

Response to the Psalm

**Lord, make me know your ways.**

Gospel Acclamation

**The Lord will come, go out to meet him. Great is his beginning and his reign will have no end.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-27: John's baptism: where did it come from?

Communion Antiphon

**Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before you with a blameless heart.**

## TUESDAY

### Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church [COMMEMORATION]

**Saint John of the Cross:** born in 1542. A Carmelite friar and friend of Saint Teresa of Avila, who encouraged him to work for the reform of the order, which he did despite great suffering. A remarkable poet and mystic, he died in Andalusia in 1591.

Entrance Antiphon

**Behold, the Lord will come, and all his holy ones with him; and on that day there will be a great light.**

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:1-2.9-13: Messianic salvation is promised to all the poor in spirit.

Response to the Psalm

**This poor man called; the Lord heard him.**

Gospel Acclamation

**Look, the Lord will come to save his people. Blessed those who are ready to meet him.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28-32: John came, but it was the sinners who believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

**The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await his coming.**

## WEDNESDAY Advent Weekday

Entrance Antiphon

**The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations.**

First Reading

Isaiah 45:6-8.18.21-26: Send victory like a dew, you heavens.

Response to the Psalm

**Send victory like a dew, you heavens, and let the clouds rain it down.**

Gospel Acclamation

**Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 7:19-23: Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard.

Communion Antiphon

**Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of his servants.**

## THURSDAY Advent Weekday

Entrance Antiphon

**You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.**

First Reading

Isaiah 54:1-10: Like a forsaken wife, the Lord calls you back.

Response to the Psalm

**I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.**

Gospel Acclamation

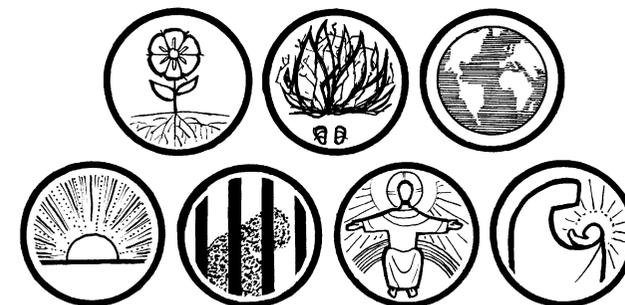
**The day of the Lord is near. Look, he comes to save us.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 7:24-30: John is the messenger who prepares the way of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

**Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.**



### The "O" Antiphons

The "O Antiphons" refer to the seven antiphons that are chanted before the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours in the last week before Christmas, December 17-23. The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury (now Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire), these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the O Antiphons was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, "Keep your O" and "The Great O Antiphons" were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the O Antiphons