# The O Antiphons

The Church sings one each evening from 17 to 23 December, calling Christ by His ancient names. Cut out the cards and read one at dinner, or set one by your Advent wreath.

17 DECEMBER

## O Sapientia

O Wisdom

O Wisdom, who came forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come, and teach us the way of prudence.

18 DECEMBER

## O Adonai

O Lord

O Lord and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: come, and redeem us with outstretched arm.

19 DECEMBER

## O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse, who stand as a sign for the peoples, before whom kings shall keep silent and to whom the nations shall pray: come to free us, and delay no longer.

20 DECEMBER

## O Clavis David

O Key of David

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, who open and no one shuts, who shut and no one opens: come, and lead out from prison those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

21 DECEMBER

## O Oriens

O Dayspring

O Dayspring, splendour of eternal light and sun of justice: come, and give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

22 DECEMBER

## O Rex Gentium

O King of the Nations

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone who makes both one: come, and save man, whom you formed from the dust of the earth.

23 DECEMBER

## O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: come, and save us, O Lord our God.

## ERO CRAS

Read the Latin names from the last to the first: *Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia*. Their first letters spell *ero cras*, "Tomorrow I will come."