



prince of peace catholic church

Christmas Novena Booklet  
16-23 December

## The Christmas Novena

The four weeks of Advent are a spiritual preparation for the Solemnity of the Incarnation of the God-Man, ChristMass! The nine days preceding the Feast are a time of serious and joyful entering into the mystery of the season. The Christmas Novena originated in Rome in 1618. It was popularized by St Alphonsus Ligouri in 1758 and has taken many forms throughout the years. The Christmas Novena we follow at Prince of Peace is based on the texts and music used at the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome, home to the relic of the Crib of the Christ Child. The Novena is sung publicly in the Basilica in Latin each night from 16-24 December. Here at Prince of Peace, we sing part of the Novena in Latin and read part of it in English, to connect with the tradition of the Roman Basilicas.

### Entrance Hymn

The church should be dark except for the light of candles at the Altar and held by each one of the faithful. The celebrant vests in a white cope and he is accompanied by a thurifer and two candlebearers. All rise when the bell is rung.

#### RORATE CAELI

Mode i

Cantor (1st time)



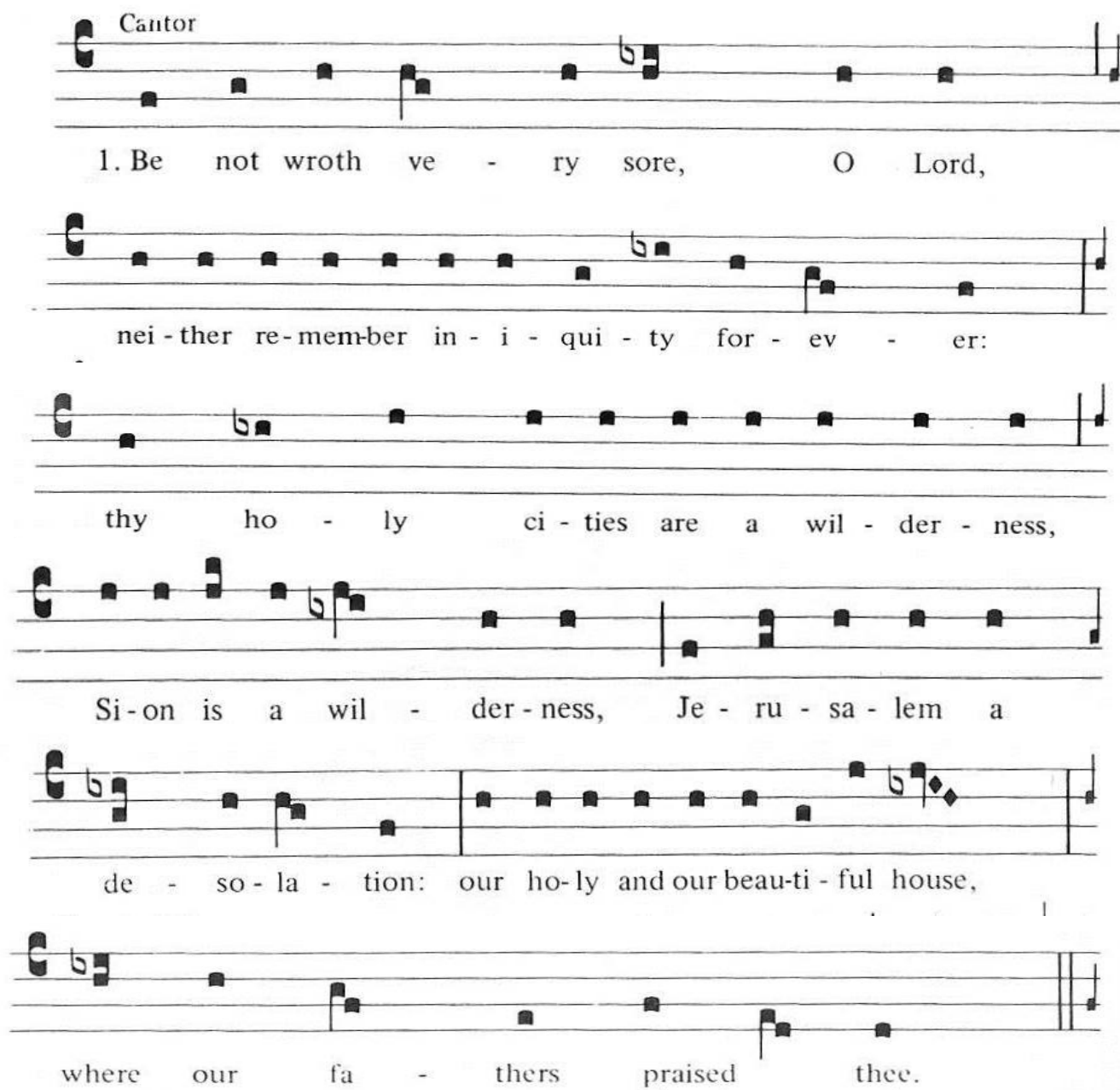
*Drop down, ye hea - vens, from a - bove,\**

All



*and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.*

Cantor



1. Be not wroth ve - ry sore, O Lord,  
 nei - ther re - mem - ber in - i - qui - ty for - ev - er:  
 thy ho - ly ci - ties are a wil - der - ness,  
 Si - on is a wil - der - ness, Je - ru - sa - lem a  
 de - so - la - tion: our ho - ly and our beau - ti - ful house,  
 where our fa - thers praised thee.

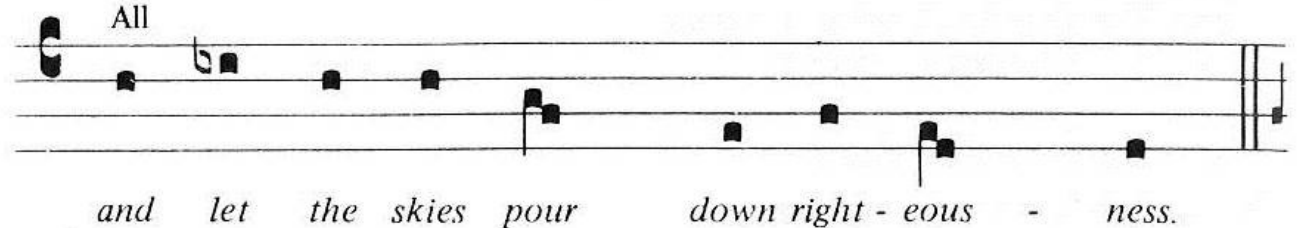
### Antiphon:

Cantor (1st time)



*Drop down, ye hea - vens, from a - bove,\**

All



*and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.*

Cantor

2. We have sin - ned, and are as an un - clean thing,

and we all do fade as a leaf:

and our in - i - qui - ties, like the wind, have ta - ken us a - way;

thou hast hid thy face from us:

and hast con - sum - ed us, be - cause of our in - i - qui - ties.

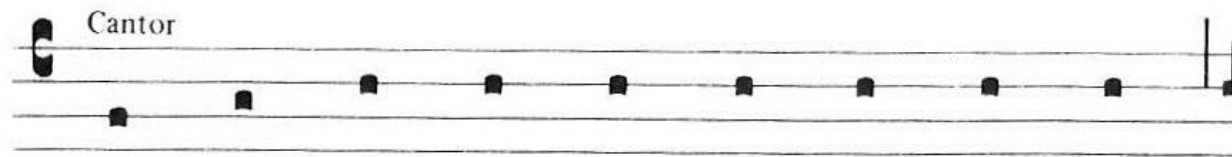
Antiphon:

Cantor (1st time)

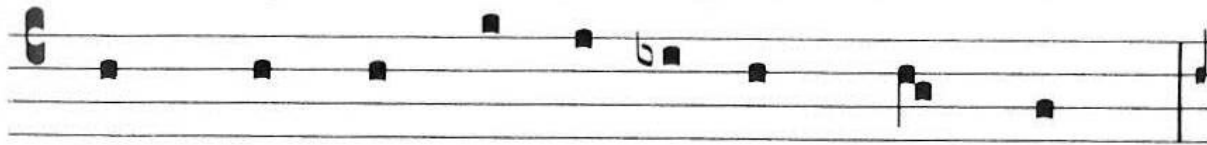
*Drop down, ye hea - vens, from a - bove,\**

All

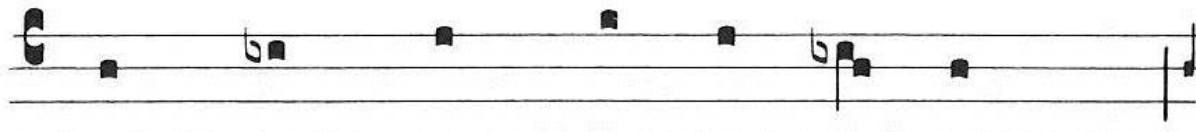
*and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.*



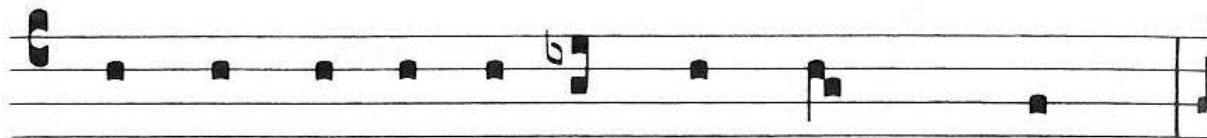
3. Ye are my wit - ness - es, saith the Lord,



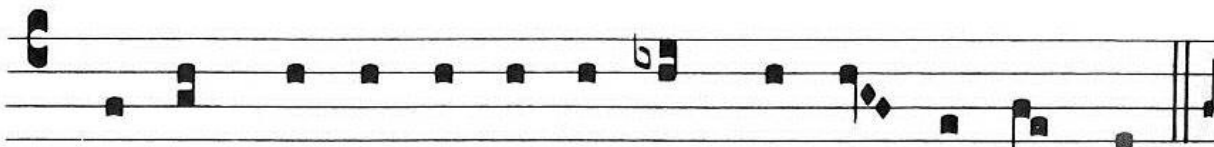
that ye may know me and be - lieve me:



I, e - ven I, am the Lord,

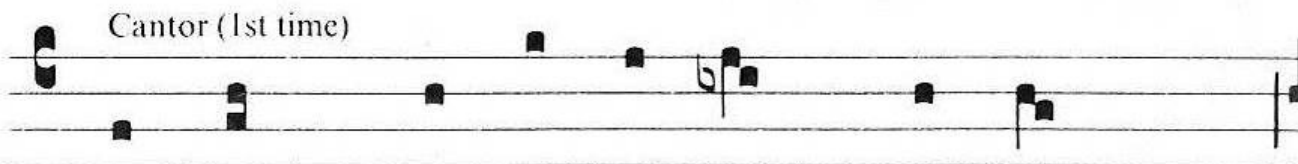


and be - side me there is no Sa - viour:

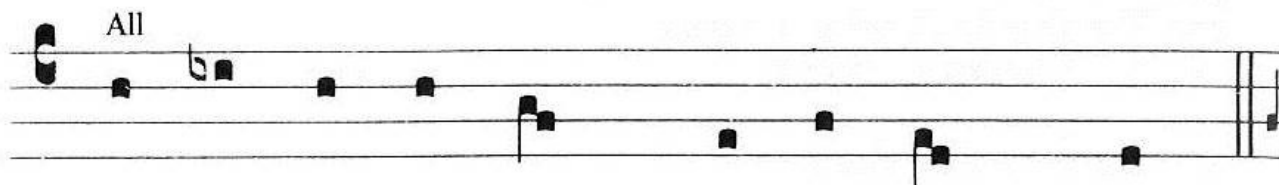


and there is none that can de - li - ver out of my hand.

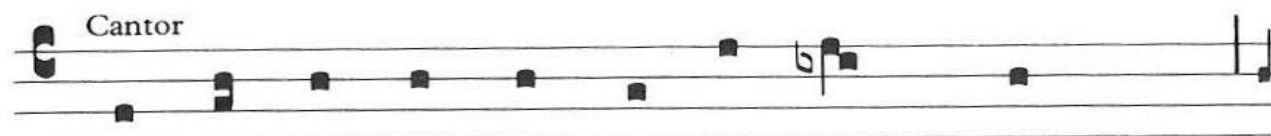
## Antiphon



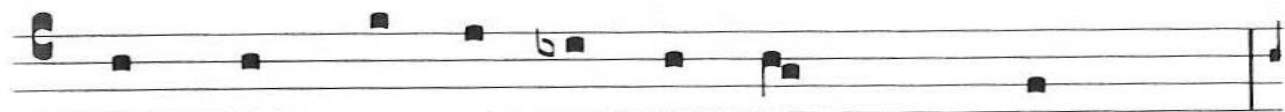
*Drop down, ye hea - vens, from a - bove,\**



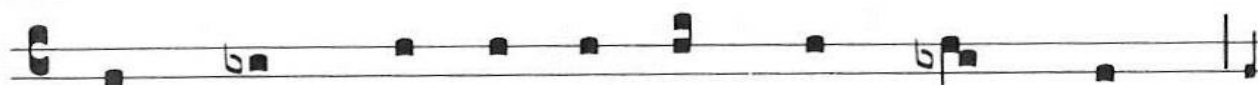
*and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.*



4. Com - fort ye, com - fort ye my peo - ple,



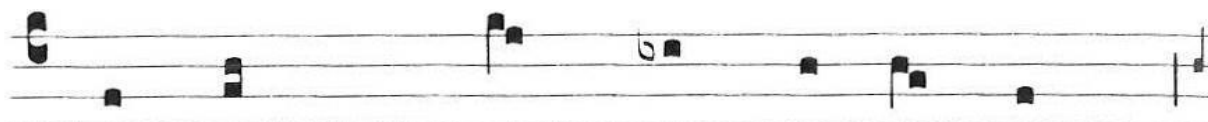
my sal - va - tion shall not tar - ry:



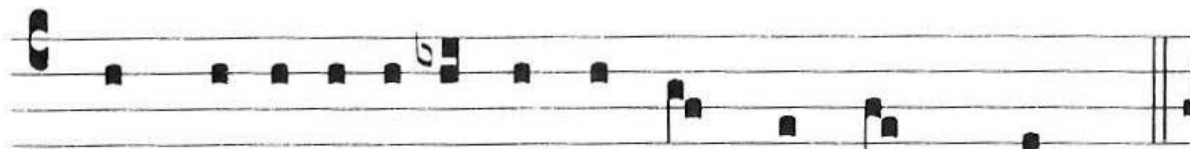
I have blot - ted out as a thick cloud



thy trans - gres - sions: Fear not, for I will save thee:

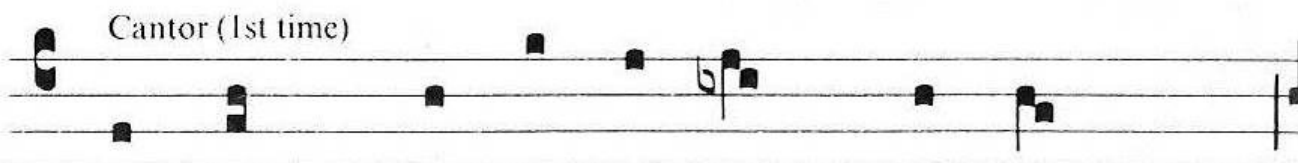


For I am the Lord thy God,

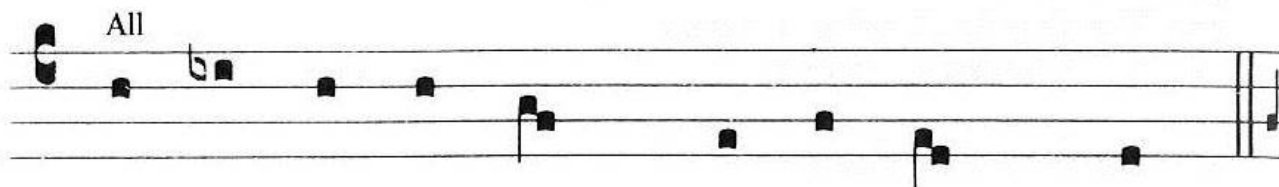


the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el, thy Re - deem - er.

### Antiphon



*Drop down, ye hea - vens, from a - bove,\**



*and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.*

## Preparatory Prayers

We prepare to enter into the Christmas Novena with special prayers. The celebrant and the congregation respond back and forth.

V. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

V. Open our mouths, O Lord, to bless Your holy Name. Cleanse our hearts from all vain, perverse, and distracting thoughts. Enlighten our understanding. In flame our affections, so that we may perform this service with due attention and deserve to be heard by Your divine majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. O Lord, in union with that divine intention with which You Yourself, while on earth, offered praises unto God, we offer this prayer of preparation unto You.

V. In a spirit of humility and with contrite hearts let us approach the Lord of Mercy. Lord Jesus, You come in order to break the chains and heal the wounds of sin. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord Jesus, You come to affirm us and to teach us that we are loved. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord Jesus, You come to be a Cornerstone ever binding opposites into unity within Yourself. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. To You I lift my soul; in You, O my God, I put my trust.

R. Stir up Your power, Lord, and come to redeem us.

V. Come, O Lord, and do not tarry.

R. Take away the iniquity of Your people.

V. Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight His paths.

R. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low.

V. The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways plain.

R. And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

V. Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord, to prepare the ways of Your only-begotten Son, that through His coming, we may attain to serve You with purified minds. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

#### Invitatory: Responsory and Prophecies

The *Invitatory* consists of the Responsory, *Regem venturum Dominum, venite adoremus*, and eight Prophecies taken from antiphons and responsories of Advent Matins. The Cantor sings the first Responsory, after which the Congregation repeats it. The Congregation repeats it after each verse of the Prophecies.



*Regem ventúrum...*

*The Lord, our coming King; hasten to adore Him.*



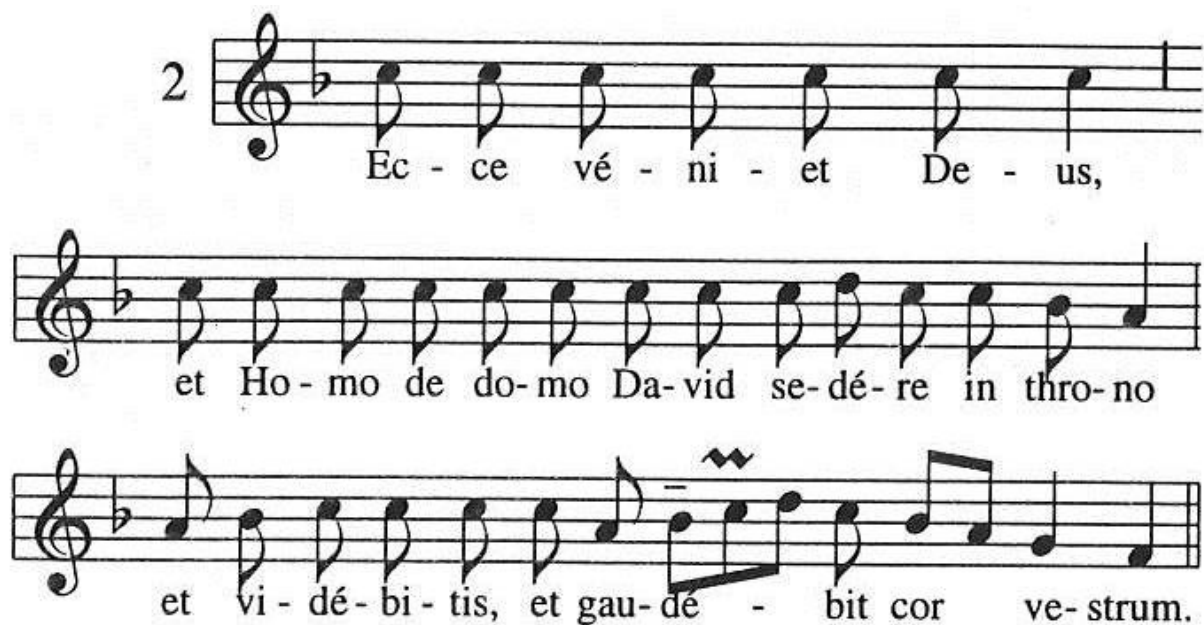
1

Ju - cun - dá - re, fí - li - a Si - on,  
et ex - súl - ta sa - tis, fí - li - a Je - rú - sa - lem:  
Ec - ce Dó - mi - nus vé - ni - et,  
et e - rit in di - e il - la lux ma - gna,  
et stil - lá - bunt mon - tes dul - cé - di - nem,  
et col - les flu - ent lac et mel,  
qui - a vé - nit et Pro - phé - ta ma - gnus,  
et ip - se re - no - vá - bit Je - rú - sa - lem.

*Rejoice, O daughter of Sion, and exult, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold the Lord shall come. And in that day there shall be a great light, and the mountains shall bring forth sweetness, and the hills shall flow with milk and honey for a great Prophet is coming, and he will renovate Jerusalem!*

*Resp.*

Re - gem ven - tú - rum Dó - mi - num,  
ve - ní - te a - do - ré - mus.



*Behold, He that is God and man, shall come forth from the house of David, His Father, to sit upon His throne, and you shall see Him and your heart will rejoice.*



3

Ec - ce vé - ni - et Dó - mi - nus,  
 pro - té - ctor no - ster, San - ctus I - sra - el,  
 co - ró - nam re - gni ha - bens in cá - pi - te su - o;  
 et do - mi - ná - bi - tur a ma - ri u - sque ad ma - re,  
 et a flú - mi - ne u - sque ad tér - mi - nos  
 or - bis ter - rá - rum.

*Behold, the Lord shall come, our Protector, the Holy One of Israel, bearing on His head the crown of a kingdom; and He will rule from sea unto sea, and from the river to the utmost bounds of the earth.*

*Resp.*

Re - gem ven - tú - rum Dó - mi - num,  
 ve - ní - te a - do - ré - mus.

4

Ec - ce ap - pa - ré - bit Dó - mi - nus,  
et non men - ti - é - tur:  
si mo - ram fé - ce - rit, ex - pé - cta e - um,  
qui - a vé - ni - et, et non tar - dá - bit.

*Behold the Lord shall appear and He will not deceive; if He delay, wait for Him, for He will come and He will not tarry.*

*Resp.*

Re - gem ven - tú - rum Dó - mi - num,  
ve - ní - te a - do - ré - mus.



5

De - scén - det Dó - mi - nus  
 si - cut plú - vi - a in vel - lus,  
 o - ri - é - tur in di - é - bus  
 e ius ju - stí - ti - a  
 et a - bun - dán - ti - a pa - cis:  
 et a - do - rá - bunt e - um  
 om - nes re - ges ter - rae,  
 om - nes gen - tes sér - vi - ent e - i.

*The Lord will descend as rain on the field; in those days shall rise His justice and abundance of peace; and all the kings of the earth shall adore Him, all nations serve Him.*

*Resp.*

Re - gem ven - tú - rum Dó - mi - num,  
 ve - ní - te a - do - ré - mus.

6

Na - scé - tur no - bis pár - vu - lus

et vo - cá - bi - tur De - us for - tis;

ip - se se - dé - bit su - per thro - num

Da - vid pa - tris su - i, et im - pe - rá - bit;

cu - jus po - té - stas

su - per hu - me - rum e - jus.

*A Child shall be born to us and He shall be called the God of strength; He will sit on the throne of David, His father, and He will rule, in Whose hand is all power.*

*Resp.*

Re - gem ven - tú - rum Dó - mi - num,

ve - ní - te a - do - ré - mus.



7

Bé-thle-hem cí-vi-tas, De-i sum-mi,  
 ex-te é-xi-et do-mi-ná-tor I-sra-el,  
 et e-grés-sus e-jus si-cut a prin-cí-pi-o  
 di-e-rum ae-ter-ni-tá-tis,  
 et ma-gni-fi-cá-bi-tur  
 in mé-di-o u-ni-vér-sae ter-rae,  
 et pax e-rit in ter-ra  
 no-stra, dum vé-ne-rit.

*Bethlehem, city of the highest God, out from thee shall go forth the Ruler of Israel; and His going forth will be as from the beginning of the eternal days; and He shall be praised in the midst of the universe, and peace will be on earth when He shall have come.*

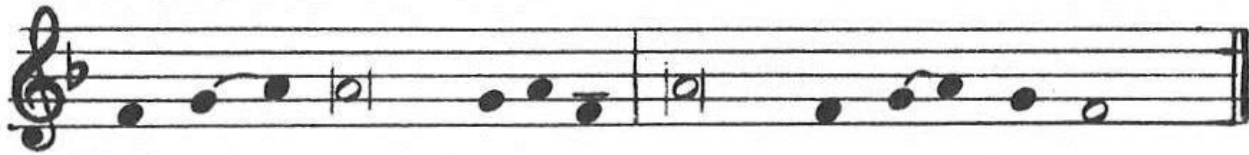
*Resp.*

Re-gem ven-tú-rum Dó-mi-num,  
 ve-ní-te a-do-ré-mus.

Canticle: *Laetentur Coeli*

The Canticle was written by Fr Carlo Vaccehetta and introduced into the Roman novena in 1721. It is a pastiche of verses from Psalms and Isaiah.

Melody for Canticle:



Choir: Let the heavens rejoice and may the earth exalt, \* praise ye the Lord, ye mountains.

All: Let the mountains break forth into gladness \* and the hills with justice.

C: For our Lord shall come \* and to His poor He shall show mercy.

A: Of us, O Lord, be mindful \* and visit us in Thy salvation.

C: Drop down dew, ye heavens from above/ and let the clouds rain the just one, \* let the earth be opened and bud forth the savior.

A: Show unto us, O Lord, Thy mercy \* and grant us Thy salvation.

C: Come, O Lord, and in peace visit us \* that with a perfect heart we may rejoice before Thee.

A: That on earth, O Lord, we may know Thy ways, \* and among all nations Thy salvation.

C: Put forth, O Lord, Thy strength and come \* that Thou mayest save us.

A: Come, O Lord, and do not tarry \* do away with the offenses of Thy people.

C: Glory to the Father and to the Son, \* and to the Holy Spirit:

A: As it was in the beginning, \* is now, and will be forever. Amen.



## Reading

All are seated. Each night a different Scripture is proclaimed by a Reader at the Pulpit.

16 December      Isaiah 40.3-11

A cry, there, out in the wilderness, Make way for the Lord's coming; a straight road for our God through the desert! Bridged every valley must be, every mountain and hill levelled; windings cut straight, and the rough paths paved; the Lord's glory is to be revealed for all mankind to witness; it is his own decree. A voice came, bidding me cry aloud; asked I in what words, in these: Mortal things are but grass, the glory of them is but grass in flower; grass that withers, a flower that fades, when the Lord's breath blows upon it. The whole people, what is it but grass? Grass that withers, a flower that fades; but the word of our Lord stands for ever. Good news for Sion, take thy stand, herald, on some high mountain; good news for Jerusalem, proclaim it, herald, aloud; louder still, no cause now for fear; tell the cities of Juda, See, your God comes! See, the Lord God is coming, revealed in power, with his own strong arm for warrant; and see, they come with him, they walk before him, the reward of his labour, the achievement of his task, his own flock! Like a shepherd he tends them, gathers up the lambs and carries them in his bosom, helps the ewes in milk forward on their way.

17 December      Isaiah 2.3-4

A multitude of peoples will make their way to it, crying, Come, let us climb up to the Lord's mountain-peak, to the house where the God of Jacob dwells; he shall teach us the right way, we will walk in the paths he has chosen. The Lord's commands shall go out from Sion, his word from Jerusalem, and he will sit in judgment on the nations, giving his award to a multitude of peoples. They will melt down their swords into plough-shares, their spears into pruning-hooks, nation levying war against nation and training itself for battle no longer.

18 December      Zephaniah 3.14-17

Break into song, fair Sion, all Israel cry aloud; here is joy and triumph, Jerusalem, for thy royal heart. Thy doom the Lord has revoked, thy enemy repulsed; the Lord, there in the midst of thee, Israel's king! Peril for thee henceforth is none. Such is the message yonder day shall bring to Jerusalem: Courage, Sion! What means it, the unnerved hand? Thou hast one in the midst of thee, the Lord thy God, whose strength shall deliver thee. Joy and pride of his thou shalt be henceforward; silent till now in his love for thee, he will greet thee with cries of gladness.

19 December      1 Chronicles 17.9-14

Henceforth my people are to have a settled home, taking root in it and remaining in undisturbed possession of it, no longer harassed by godless neighbours, as they have been ever since I first gave Israel judges to rule them. Now, I have crushed all thy enemies, and this too thou must know, that the Lord means to grant thy line continuance. So, when thy days are ended, and thou hast become part of thy race, I will grant thee for successor a son of thy own body, established firmly on his throne. He it is that shall build me a house. I will prolong for ever his royal dynasty; he shall find in me a father, and I in him a son. I will not cancel my merciful promises to him, as I cancelled my promise to the king who went before thee. Sovereignty undisturbed I will give him among this people of mine, in this kingdom of mine, for ever; his throne, to endless time, is secure.

20 December      Isaiah 11.1-5

From the stock of Jesse a scion shall burgeon yet; out of his roots a flower shall spring. One shall be born, on whom the spirit of the Lord will rest; a spirit wise and discerning, a spirit prudent and strong, a spirit of knowledge and of piety, and ever fear of the Lord shall fill his heart. Not his to judge by appearances, listen to rumours when he makes award; here is judgment will give the poor redress, here is award will right the wrongs of the defenceless. Word of him shall smite the earth like a rod, breath of him destroy the ill-doer; love of right shall be the baldric he wears, faithfulness the strength that girds him.

21 December      Ezekiel 36.26-30

I will give you a new heart, and breathe a new spirit into you; I will take away from your breasts those hearts that are hard as stone, and give you human hearts instead. I will make my spirit penetrate you, so that you will follow in the path of my law, remember and carry out my decrees. So shall you make your home in the land I promised to your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will set you free from the guilt which stains you; I will send my word to the harvest, and bid it come up abundantly, from dearth spare you; yield of tree and crop of earth I will multiply, and the heathen shall taunt you no longer with your starving lot.

22 December      Micah 5.2-4

Bethlehem-Ephrata! Least do they reckon thee among all the clans of Juda? Nay, it is from thee I look to find a prince that shall rule over Israel. Whence comes he? From the first beginning, from ages untold! Marvel not, then, if the Lord abandons his people<sup>[3]</sup> for a time, until she who is in travail has brought forth her child; others there are, brethren of his,<sup>[4]</sup> that must be restored to the citizenship of Israel. Enabled by the Lord his God, confident in that mighty protection, stands he, our shepherd, and safely folds his flock; fame of him now reaches to the world's end;

23 December      Isaiah 60.1-5

Rise up, Jerusalem, and shine forth; thy dawn has come, breaks the glory of the Lord upon thee! What though darkness envelop the earth, though all the nations lie in gloom? Upon thee the Lord shall dawn, over thee his splendour shall be revealed. Those rays of thine shall light the Gentiles on their path; kings shall walk in the splendour of thy sunrise. Lift up thy eyes and look about thee; who are these that come flocking to thee? Sons of thine, daughters of thine, come from far away, or rising up close at hand. Heart of thee shall overflow with wonder and gratitude, to see all the riches of ocean, all the treasure of the Gentiles pouring into thee!

24 December      Isaiah 9.1-6

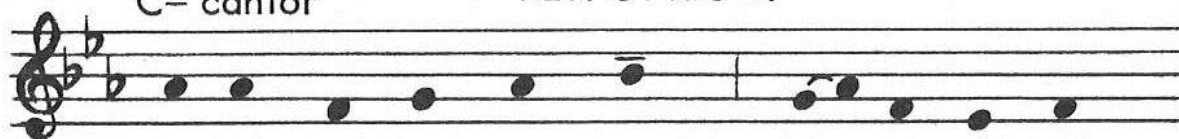
Land of Zabulon and Nephthali, its burden at first how lightly borne! but after-wards affliction weighed on it, Galilee, by the sea road where the Gentiles dwell west of Jordan. And now the people that went about in darkness has seen a great light; for men abiding in a land where death overshadowed them, light has dawned. Their number thou didst increase, but gavest them no joy of it; now, they shall rejoice in thy presence, as men rejoice when the harvest is in, as men triumph when victory is won, and booty taken, and they fall to dividing up the spoils. Yoke that fixed the burden, shaft that galled the shoulder, rod of the tyrant, all lie broken now, as they did long ago, when Madian fell. All the trophies of the old tumultuous forays, all the panoply stained with blood, will be burnt up now, will go to feed the flames. For our sakes a child is born, to our race a son is given, whose shoulder will bear the sceptre of princely power. What name shall be given him? Peerless among counsellors, the mighty God, Father of the world to come, the Prince of peace.




## Responsory

After the Reading, a Cantor intones the Responsory. The Congregation, marked A for All, repeats the Responsory. The Cantor then sings a Verse, All respond with the second part of the Responsory. The Cantor sings the *Gloria* Verse, and All respond repeating the entire Responsory.

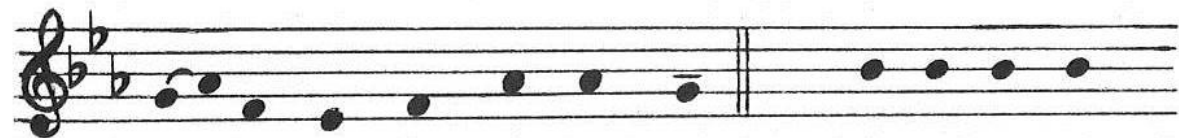
C= cantor                      RESPONSORY




C. Be-hold the Lord shall come; \* let us pre-pare  
A. Be-hold the Lord shall come; \* let us pre-pare



C. to meet him.            C. He comes to save his peo-ple.  
A. to meet him.



A. let us pre-pare to meet him. C. Glo-ry to the



Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.  
All repeat: Behold the Lord shall come; let us ...



# Hymn

All rise to sing the sixth century Advent Vesper Hymn, *En clara vox redarguit*. Here we use the translation of Edward Casell and the melody Merton. The Cantor intones the first verse and alternates with the Congregation.

MERTON 87 87

W. H. Monk 1823-89



HARK! a herald voice is calling:  
Christ is nigh, 'it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!

2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heaven;  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,

4 So when next he comes in glory,  
And earth's final hour draws near,  
May he then as our defender  
On the clouds of heaven appear.

5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
To the Father and the Son,  
with the co-eternal Spirit,  
While unending ages run.

Amen.

## Antiphons and the Magnificat

The lights of the church are turned on as the celebrant imposes incense. The Cantor intones the antiphon proper to each day of the novena and the first verse of the Church's Evening Canticle, the *Magnificat* (Luke 1.46-55). The celebrant goes to incense the Altar while the Cantor and the Congregation alternate the verses of the *Magnificat*. All bow profoundly at the *Gloria Patri*. Cantor and Congregation repeat the Antiphon at the end of the *Magnificat*.



Magnificat \* ánima mea Dóminum,  
et exultávit spíritus meus \*  
in Deo salutári meo;  
quia respéxit humilitátem ancíllae suae, \*  
ecce enim ex hoc beátam me dicent  
omnes generatiónes.  
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, \*  
et sanctum nomen eius,  
et misericórdia eius a progénie in progénies \*  
timéntibus eum.  
Fecit poténtiam in bráchio suo, \*  
dispérsit supérbos mente cordis sui,  
depósuit poténtes de sede, \*  
et exaltávit húmiles,  
esuriéntes implévit bonis, \*  
et dívites dimísit inánes.  
Suscépit Israel, púerum suum, \*  
recordátus misericórdiae suae,  
sicut locútus est ad patres nostros, \*  
Abraham et sémini eius in saécula.  
Gloria Patri et Filio \* et Spirítui Sancto.  
Sícut erat in principio, et nunc et semper, \*  
et in saécula saeculórum. Amen.

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has  
looked with favor on His lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me  
blessed: the Almighty has done great things for  
me, and holy is His Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear Him in every  
generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, He has  
scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their  
thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of His servant Israel,  
for He has remembered His promise of mercy.  
The promise He made to our Fathers, to Abra-  
ham and his children forever.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to  
the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.*



16 December

*Antifona*  
T. 4

Ec - ce Rex vé - ni - et  
Dó - mi - nus ter - rae  
et ip - se áu - fe - ret ju - gum  
ca - pti - vi - tá - tis no - strae.

*Behold, here comes the King,  
Lord of the earth,  
to take off the yoke of our captivity.*

*Magnificat...*

17 December

*Antifona*  
T. 2D

O Sa - pi - én - ti - a,  
quae ex o - re Al - tís - si - mi pro - dí - sti,  
at - tín - gens a fi - ne u - sque ad fi - nem,  
fór - ti - ter  
su - á - vi - ter di - sponéns que óm - ni - a:  
ve - ni ad do - cén - dum nos  
vi - am pru - dén - ti - ae.

*Wisdom that comest out of the mouth of the Most High,  
that reachest from one end to another,  
and orderest all things mightily and sweetly,  
come to teach us the way of prudence!*

*Magnificat...*



18 December

*Antifona*  
T. 2D

O A - do - ná - i,  
et Dux do - mus I - sra - el,  
qui Mó - y - si in i - gne flam - mae ru - bi  
ap - pa - ru - í - sti  
et e - i in Si - na le - gem de - dí - sti:  
ve - ni ad re - di - mén - dum nos  
in brá - chi - o ex - tén - to.

*Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel,  
Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush,  
and gavest him the law in Sinai,  
come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!*

*Magnificat...*

19 December

*Antifona*  
T. 2D

O ra - dix Jes - se,  
qui - stas in si - gnum po - pu - ló - rum,  
su - per quem con - ti - né - bunt  
re - ges, os su - um,  
quem gen - tes de - pre - ca - bũn - tur:  
ve - ni ad li - be - rã - dum nos  
jam no - li tar - dá - re.

*Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people,  
at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths,  
Whom the Gentiles shall seek,  
come to deliver us, do not tarry.*

*Magnificat...*

20 December

Antifona  
T. 2D



The musical score is written on ten staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. Above the first staff, there is a lambda symbol (Λ) above a note. Above the fifth staff, there is a double squiggle symbol (≈) above a note. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: O cla - vis Da - vid, et scep - trum do - mus I - sra - el: qui á - pe - ris, et ne - mo clau - dit, clau-dis et ne - mo á - pe - rit: ve - ni, et é - duc vin - ctum de do - mo cár - ce - ris, se - dén - tem in té - ne - bris et um - bra mor - tis.

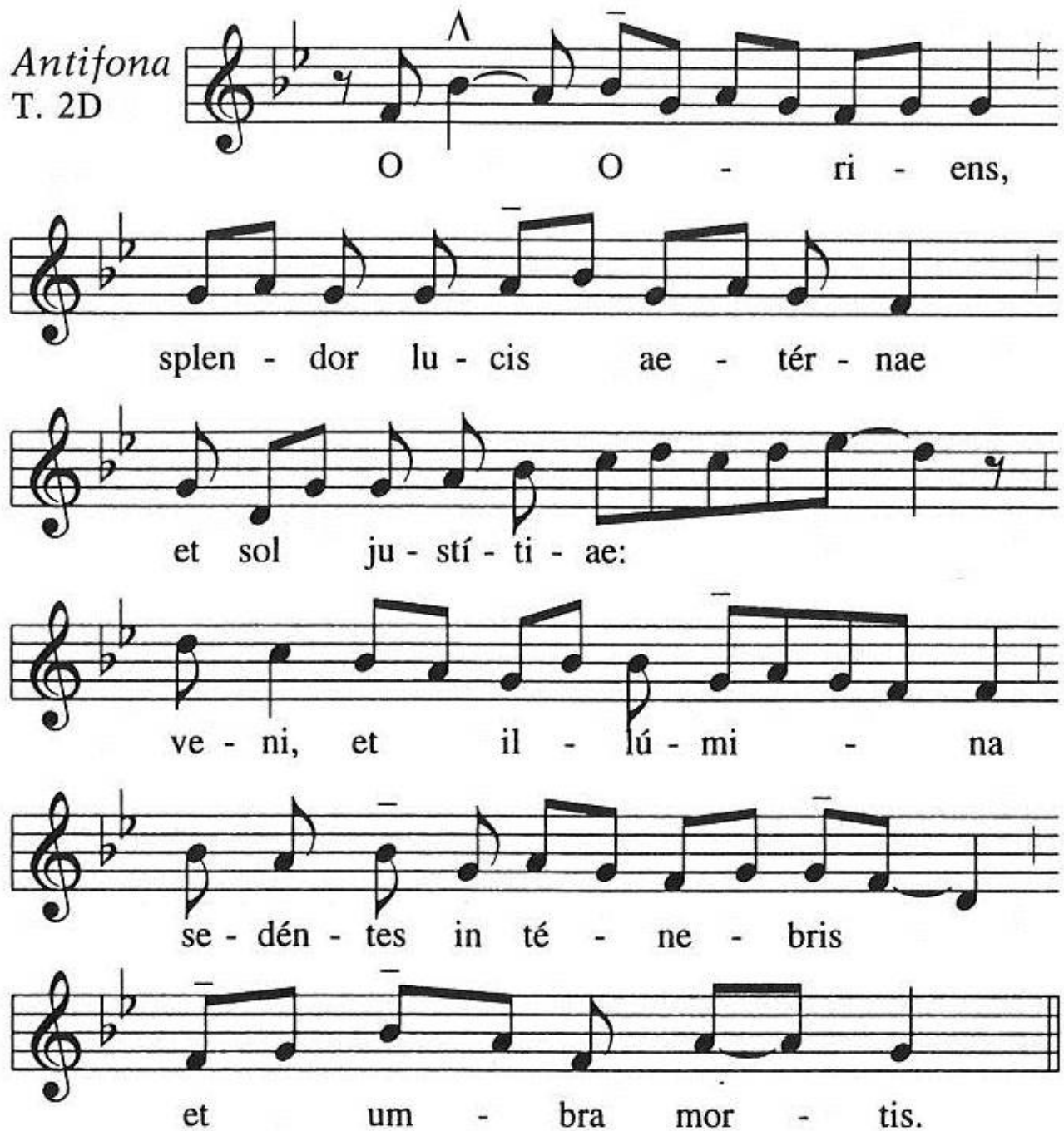
O cla - vis Da - vid,  
et scep - trum do - mus I - sra - el:  
qui á - pe - ris, et ne - mo  
clau - dit,  
clau-dis et ne - mo á - pe - rit:  
ve - ni, et é - duc vin - ctum  
de do - mo cár - ce - ris,  
se - dén - tem in té - ne - bris  
et um - bra mor - tis.

*Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, that openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death.*

*Magnificat...*

21 December

*Antifona*  
T. 2D



The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The text is in Latin and describes the qualities of light and justice.

O O - ri - ens,  
splen - dor lu - cis ae - té - r - nae  
et sol ju - stí - ti - ae:  
ve - ni, et il - lú - mi - na  
se - dén - tes in té - ne - bris  
et um - bra mor - tis.

*Dayspring, Brightness of the everlasting light,  
Sun of justice, come to give light to them  
that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!*

*Magnificat...*

22 December

*Antifona*  
T. 2D

O Rex gén - ti - um,  
et de - si - de - rá - tus e - á - rum,  
la - pis - que an - gu - la - ris  
qui fa - cis ù - tra - que u - num:  
ve - ni, et sal - va hó - mi - nem  
quem de li - mo for - má - sti.

*King of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof!  
O Corner-stone, that makest of two one,  
come to save man,  
whom Thou hast made out of the dust of the earth!*

*Magnificat...*

23 December

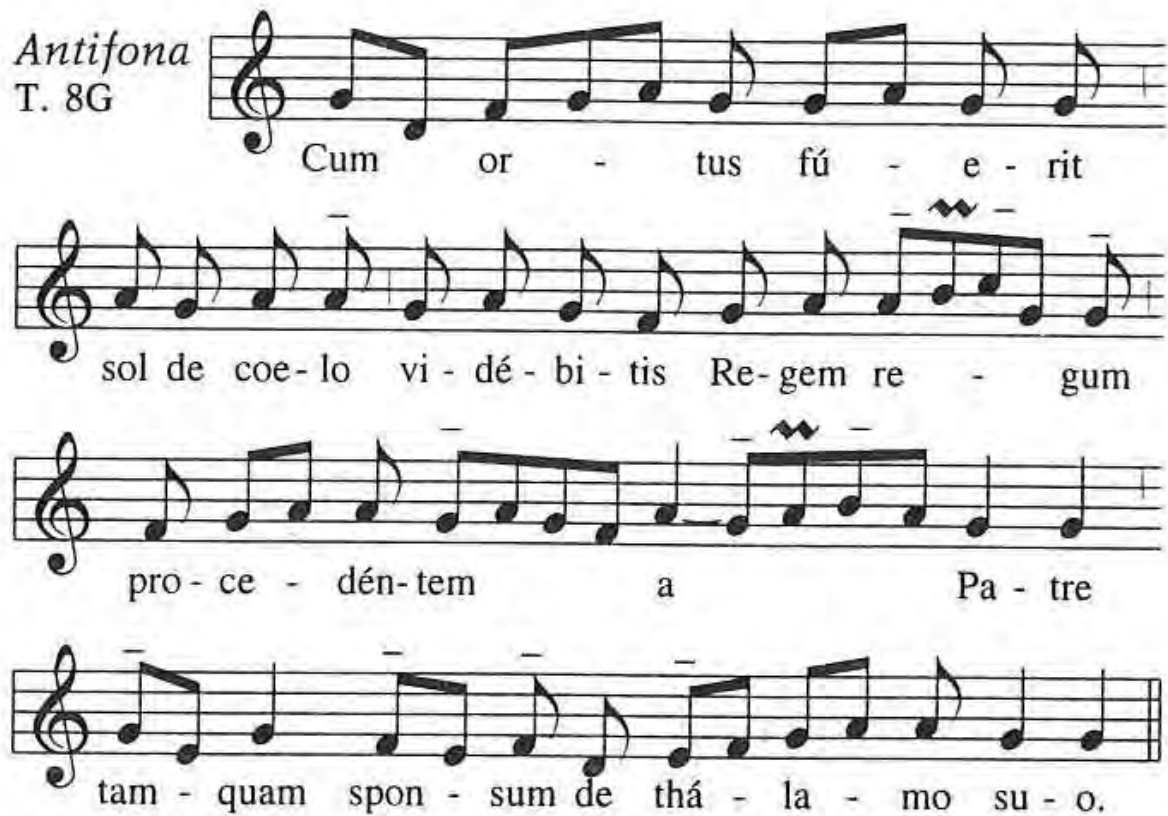
*Antifona*  
T. 2D

O Em - má - nu - el,  
Rex et le - gí - fer no - ster,  
ex spe - ctá - ti - o gén - ti - um  
et Sal - vá - tor e - a - rum:  
ve - ni, ad sal - ván - dum nos  
Dó - mi - ne De - us no - ster.

*Emmanuel, our King and our Law-giver,  
Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and salvation thereof,  
come to save us, O Lord our God!*

*Magnificat...*

*Antifona*  
T. 8G



*Why, you shall see the King of the kings of the rising of the sun  
shall have from heaven  
proceeding from the Father  
as a bridegroom out of his chamber.*

*Magnificat...*



## Intercessory Prayers

All remain standing for the Intercessory Prayers. Celebrant and Congregation alternate.

V. We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us call to him:  
Come, Lord Jesus!

R. Come, Lord Jesus!

V. Lord Jesus, while on earth You ministered as a true shepherd caring for Your flock. Send Your Spirit upon our Holy Father and all the leaders of Your Church that they may continue to guide Your people in the way of holiness.

R. Come, Lord Jesus!

V. Lord Jesus, You always showed a special care to those who were in need. Be near to the poor, the handicapped, the lonely and oppressed, and all who suffer any affliction that they may always remember that You are with them.

R. Come, Lord Jesus!

V. Lord Jesus, You came to show us the way to the Father. Grant that all who still wait in darkness may see the light of Your presence and hear the good news of Your Gospel.

R. Come, Lord Jesus!

V. Lord Jesus, we all await Your coming. Grant to all who have died the joy of seeing You face to face.

R. Come, Lord Jesus!

V. With longing for the coming of Jesus, let us offer to the Father the prayer that Jesus taught us:

(see Pater Noster on next page)





Pa-ter noster, qui es in cæ-lis : sancti- fi- cé- tur nomen  
 tu- um; advé-ni- at regnum tu- um; fi- at vo-lúntas tu- a,  
 sic-ut in cæ-lo, et in terra. Panem nostrum co-ti-di- á-  
 num da no-bis hó-di- e; et dimítte no-bis dé-bi-ta nostra,  
 sic-ut et nos dimít-timus de-bi-tó-ri-bus nostris; et ne nos  
 indú-cas in tenta-ti- ó-nem; sed lí-be-ra nos a ma- lo.

## Collect

The celebrant then invites the Congregation to pray with a Collect.

## 16 December

Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord,  
 and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts,  
 visit us with the grace of your Son.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.

17 December

O God, our Creator and Redeemer,

You willed that Your Word become incarnate in the  
womb of Mary, ever Virgin.

Look kindly on us as we pray:

may Your only-begotten Son, clothed in our humanity,  
grant us a share in His divinity.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

18 December

O almighty God,

we are weighed down by the old bondage which  
holds us fast under the yoke of sin.

Please liberate us by the new birth of Your Son

that we are preparing to celebrate.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

19 December

O God,

You graciously revealed Your brilliant glory to the  
world through the off-spring of the holy Virgin.

Grant, we pray,

that we may participate with full faith in the  
liturgical re-enactment of the great incarnation,  
and celebrate it in gestures which express our  
loving commitment to You.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

20 December

O God,

the immaculate Virgin, at the announcement of an  
angel received Your unutterable Word,  
and became divinity's dwelling by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.

Grant

that we may be able to follow her example in  
humbly doing Your will.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

21 December

Kindly hear the prayers of Your people, O Lord.

We ask

that even as we have been made happy when Your  
only-begotten Son came in our human form,  
so also we may receive the gift of eternal life  
when He comes in majesty.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

22 December

O God,

when You beheld our fallen state,  
You chose to redeem us mortals by the advent of  
Your only-begotten Son.

Grant us

once again to be united with Him as Redeemer  
when we celebrate His incarnation in our humble liturgy.

Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

23 December

Almighty, ever-living God,  
as we realize that the feast of the human birth of  
Your Son is fast approaching,  
we ask you to grant  
that Your Word, Who took human form in our midst,  
may show us unworthy servants Your mercy.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Final Blessing

The celebrant dismisses the Congregation like at Mass

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. May almighty God bless you, + the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

*Closing Hymn on next page*



# Closing Hymn

HELMSLEY 87 87 47

Melody noted by T. Olivers 1725-99  
Included in Wesley's *Select Hymns* 1765

The musical score is presented in five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and repeat signs. The first system consists of four measures. The second system also consists of four measures. The third system begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The fourth system also begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The fifth system begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment.

LO! he comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya!  
God appears, on earth to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing  
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers:  
With what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory:  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly!  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley 1707-88



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