

Praying the Oh Antiphons

This version of the “Oh Antiphons” by Tessa Bielecki combines several ancient translations. It is meant to be prayed aloud by a chorus of at least two voices, although it can also be prayed alone. In addition to the seven traditional prayers, Christ the Tiger and Christ the Lightning-Dynamite are included, inspired by T.S. Eliot and Thomas Merton. You may want to write more Oh Antiphons of your own, based on your own experience.



Praying the Oh Antiphons

Tessa Bielecki

1. Oh Wisdom

2. Oh Wisdom

1. & 2. Oh Wisdom of our God Most High!

1. You reach from beginning to end and order all things with gentleness and strength, guiding creation with power and love. Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and teach us to walk in the way of truth.

1. Oh Adonai

2. Oh Lord and Leader

1. & 2. Oh Ruler of Ancient Israel!

1. You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai you gave him your law. Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and rescue us with your mighty outstretched arm.

1. Oh Root of Jesse

2. Oh Flower of Jesse's stem

1. & 2. Oh Flower of Jesse's stem!

1. You are a sign of God's love for all peoples. Before you kings shall keep silence. Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and save us without delay.

1. Oh Key of David

2. Oh Key of David

1. & 2. Oh Key of David and Sceptre of the House of Israel!

1. You open and no one closes. You close and no one opens. Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and free us from the prison of darkness.

1. Oh Radiant Dawn

2. Oh Morning Star

1. & 2. Oh Dayspring from on High!

1. In the tender compassion of our God, Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and enlighten those who dwell in the shadow of death.

1. Oh King of all peoples

2. Oh Desired of all nations

1. & 2. Oh Source of all unity and faith!

1. You are the Keystone uniting Jew and Gentile, binding two into one. Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and deliver all peoples, whom you fashioned out of clay.

1. Oh King and Lawgiver

2. Oh long-awaited Savior of the nations

1. & 2. Oh Emmanuel, God's Presence among us!

1. Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come and save us, Lord our God.

1. Oh Word within a Word

2. Oh Word within a Word

1. & 2. Oh Word within a Word!

1. You are swaddled with darkness. In the juvescence of the year,
Come!

2. Come!

1. & 2. Come, Christ the Tiger! *(from T.S. Eliot)*

1. Make ready for the Christ

2. Make ready for the Christ

1. & 2. Make ready for the Christ

1. Whose smile like lightning sleeps in your paper flesh

2. Sleeps in your paper flesh

1. & 2. Sleeps in your paper flesh like dynamite!

(from Thomas Merton)