

Veni, Veni Emmanuel O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni, Veni Emmanuel is a synthesis of the great "O Antiphons" that are used for Vespers during the octave before Christmas (Dec. 17-23). These antiphons are of ancient origin and date back to at least the ninth century. The hymn itself was composed in the 12th century in French and the Latin version of the hymn is from the 18th century. There are several arrangements of this hymn. The one below gives all seven verses in the order in which the antiphons appear during the octave before Christmas.

VENI, veni, Emmanuel
captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exsilio,
privatus Dei filio.

R: Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,
nascetur pro te Israel!

VENI, O Sapientia,
quae hic disponis omnia,
veni, viam prudentiae
ut doceas et gloriae. **R.**

VENI, veni, Adonai,
qui populo in Sinai
legem dedisti vertice
in maiestate gloriae. **R.**

VENI, O Iesse virgula,
ex hostis tuos ungula,
de spectu tuos tartari
educ et antro barathri. **R.**

VENI, Clavis Davidica,
regna reclude caelica,
fac iter tutum superum,
et claude vias inferum. **R.**

VENI, veni O Oriens,
solare nos adveniens,
noctis depelle nebulas,
dirasque mortis tenebras. **R.**

VENI, veni, Rex Gentium,
veni, Redemptor omnium,
ut salvas tuos famulos
peccati sibi conscios. **R.**

O COME, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

R: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,
to thee shall come Emmanuel!

O COME, Thou Wisdom, from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. **R.**

O COME, o come, Thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **R.**

O COME, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
form ev'ry foe deliver them
that trust Thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **R.**

O COME, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home,
make safe the way that leads on high,
that we no more have cause to sigh. **R.**

O COME, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. **R.**

O COME, Desire of the nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid every strife and quarrel cease
and fill the world with heaven's peace. **R.**

Latin, paraphrase of the great "O antiphons". Translation by T. Helmore (1811-1890), J. M. Neale (1818-1866) and others.