

The Great Antiphons.

The Great Antiphons for the Magnificat begin on December 17. They are sung right through both before and after the Canticle, the Choir standing. The last is sung on the day before Christmas Eve. If a Feast occurs, the Great Antiphon forms the Commemoration of Advent.

These seven Antiphons all begin with O. They proclaim in turn the noblest titles of the Messiah: Wisdom of God, Leader of the house of Israel, Root of Jesse, etc. They are the Church's final appeals to its Redeemer.

December 17.

Ant. II D

O

Sa-pi-énti-a, * quae ex

O Wisdom, who art come out of the mouth of the most High, reaching from end to end mightily, ordering all things sweetly; come and teach us the way of prudence. *Eccles. 24, 5; Wisd. 8, 1.*

óre Altíssimi prodísti, attingens

a fíne usque ad fínem, fórti-ter su-ávi-ter dispo-

nénsque ómni- a : véni ad docéndum nos ví- am

prudénti-ae. *Cant. Magní- ficat * ánima mé-a Dóminum.*

Et exsultávit... *Cant. Magníficat, solemn tone. II D. p. 219.*

¶ If this Antiphon is said as Commemoration for Advent, it is followed by the Versicle :

Ÿ. Roráte caéli désuper, et núbes plúant jústum.

Ÿ. Heavens, drop down from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One.

R̃. Aperiátur térra, et gérmí- net Salvatórem.

R̃. Let the earth open and bud forth the Saviour.

December 18.

Ant. II D

O

Ado-ná-i, * et Dux dó-

mus Isra-el, qui Mó-y-si in ígne

flámmae rúbi apparu-í-sti, et é-i in Sína lé-

gem dedí-sti : véni ad red-iméndum nos in brá-

chi-o exténto. E u o u a e.

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in a flame of fire in the bush, and in Sinai didst give the Law; come and redeem us with a mighty arm. *Exod. 3, 2 and 20, 1.*

December 19.

Ant. II D

O

rá-dix Jéssé, * qui stas

in sígnum popu-lórum, super quem

continébunt réges os sú-um, quem géntes depre-ca-bún-

tur : véni ad li-berándum nos, jām nó-li tardá-re.

E u o u a e.

Cant. Magnificat, solemn tone. II D. p. 219.

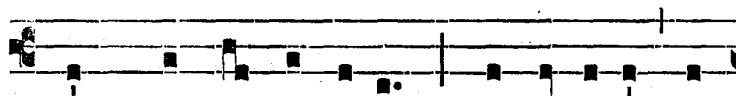
O Root of Jesse, who standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, whom the Gentiles shall beseech; come and set us free, delay no longer. *Is. 11, 10; 52, 15.*

December 20.

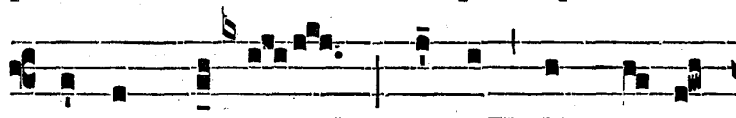
Ant. II D

O

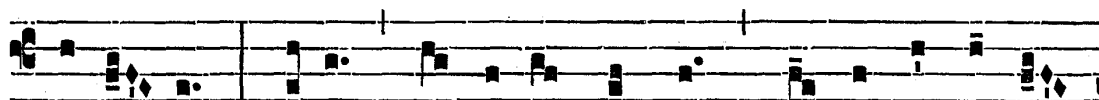
clá-vis Dávid, * et scé-



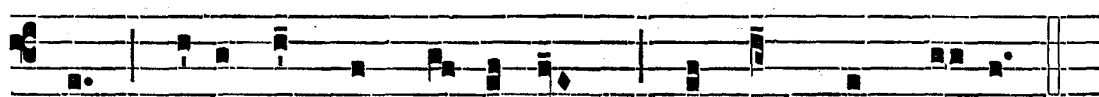
ptum dómus Isra-el : qui ápe-ris, et



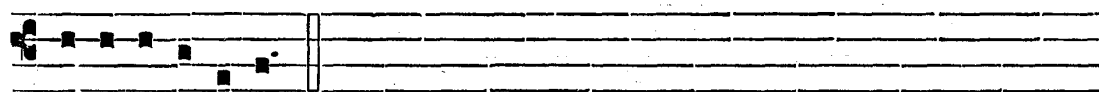
némo cláudit, cláudis, et némo



ápe-rit : véni, et éduc vínctum de dómo cárce-



ris, sedéntem in té-nebris et úmbra mór-tis.



E u o u a e.

Cant. Magnificat, as on p. 290.

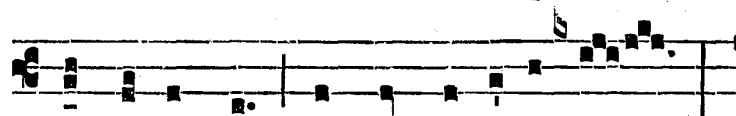
O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; who openest and none shutteth; who shuttest, and none doth open; come and bring out the captive from the prison-house, that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death. *Is. 22, 22; Ps. 106, 10; Luke 1, 79.*

December 21.

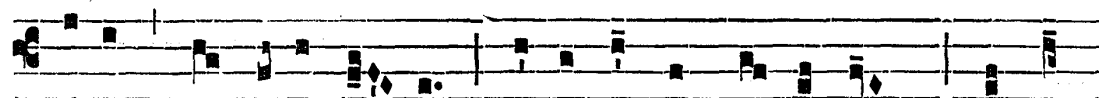
Ant. II D

O

O-ri-ens, * spléndor lú-

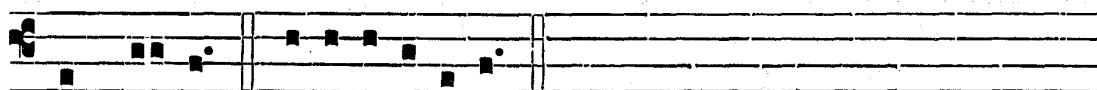


cis aetérnae, et sol justí-ti-ae :



véni, et illúmi-na sedéntes in té-nebris et úm-

O Dayspring, Splendour of the eternal Light, and Sun of Justice; come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death. *Zach. 3, 8; 6, 12; Mal. 4, 2; Ps. 106, 10.*



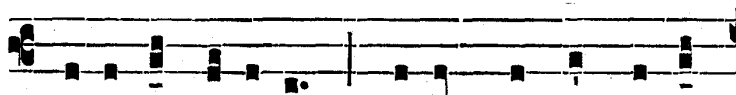
bra mór-tis. E u o u a e.

December 22.

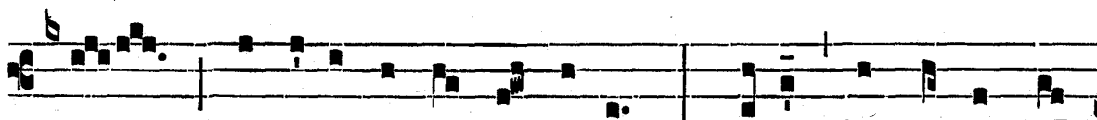
Ant. II D

O

Rex génti-um, * et de-si-



derá-tus e-árum, lápisque angu-lá-



ris, qui fácis útraque únum : véni, et sálva hó-



minem, quem de límo formá-sti. E u o u a e.

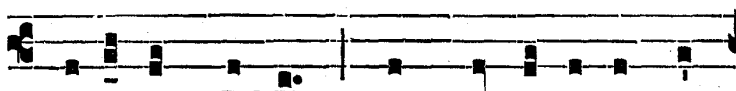
O King of the nations and their Desire; the Corner-stone, that makest both (both Jews and Gentiles) one; come and save man, whom thou hast made of the slime of the earth. *Agg. 2, 8; Ephes. 2, 20 and 14; Gen. 2, 7.*

December 23.

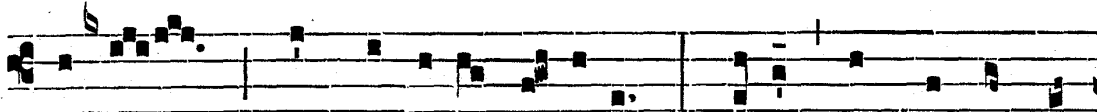
Ant. II D

O

Emmá-nu-el, * Rex et



légi-fer nóster, exspectá-ti-o gén-



ti-um, et Salvátor e-árum : véni ad salvándum



nos Dómine Dé-us nó-ster. E u o u a e.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, Hope of the nations and their Saviour; come and save us, O Lord our God. *Is. 7, 14; 33, 22.*