

# December 23rd

The O Antiphons



**O O Emmanuel,  
our King and  
Lawgiver, the  
Desire of the  
Nations and the  
Savior thereof:  
come to save us,  
O Lord, Our God!**

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Emmánu-el, \* Rex et légi-fer noster, exspe-  
ctá-ti-o génti-um, et Salvátor e-árum: véni ad sal-  
vándum nos Dómine Dé- us noster.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a medieval style with square neumes on a four-line staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words in red ink (Emmánu-el, \* Rex et légi-fer noster, exspe-). The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the antiphon with the words "vándum nos Dómine Dé- us noster."

**EMMANUEL** means *“God with us.”* There is no more beautiful, comforting or strengthening thought than knowing that God is with us; on the other hand, there is nothing more troubling to know that *“God is angry with us!”* However, as Scripture says: *“Though the Lord our God is angry with us for a little while, for our chastisement and correction: yet He will be reconciled again to His servants”* (2 Mach. 7:33). *“For whom the Lord loveth, He chastiseth”* (Prov. 3:12). When God or parents stop punishing us, then it is a danger sign that we are lost. For doctors only give medicine or do surgery on those whom they think they can save; those who are beyond hope, they send home or to a hospice to die. Punishments, in a strange way, show that God still loves us and is thinking of us, and is seeking to cure us. Jesus comes to be with us at Christmas, not to party with us, but to save us from sin. Jesus said: *“the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* (Lk. 19:10) and the prophet Ezechiel puts these words into Jesus’ mouth: *“I will seek that which was lost: and that which was driven away, I will bring again: I will bind up that which was broken, and I will strengthen that which was weak”* (Ez. 34:16). But He will only come to be with us if we really and honestly want Him to be with us. But we cannot have both God and worldliness with us: *“Whosoever will be a friend of this world, becomes an enemy of God”* (James 4:4).