

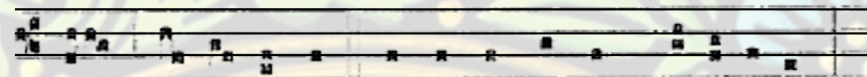
December 19th

The O Antiphons

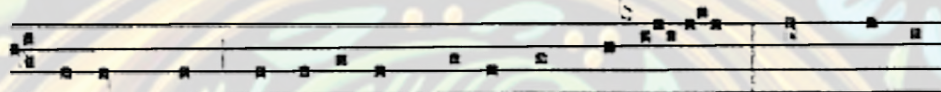


***O Root of Jesse, Who
stands as the sign
for the peoples, at
Whom kings will
close their mouth, to
Whom the nations
shall plead: come,
now, to free us, and
do not delay!***

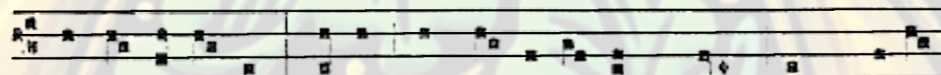
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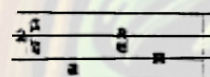
O Ra-dix Jesse, qui stas in signum popu-ló-rum,



super quem conti-nébunt reges os su-um, quem gentes



depre-cabún-tur: ve-ni ad li-be-rándum nos, jam no-li



tardá-re.

RADIX JESSE means “the Root of Jesse.” Who is Jesse? He is the father of the greatest of all Israel’s kings—King David. David’s son, Solomon, was also a great king; but both David and Solomon were sinners and their kingdoms eventually collapsed. The true flower of the Root or Tree of Jesse is Jesus Christ, Who never sinned and of Whose kingdom there shall be no end. Many have tried to chop-down this Tree of Jesse over the centuries, but they have failed and always will fail. Catholics belong to the “Root of Jesus.” He is the root and trunk of the tree that is the Mystical Body of Christ. At Baptism we became a little bud on that Tree of Jesus; and He wants us to grow into a large branch of holiness, on which the birds of the air can come and perch. Just as the roots and trunk feed the branches, Jesus feeds us with graces— *“I am the vine, you are the branches”* He said. The Protestant religions are like branches that have been sawn-off from the Tree of Jesus, which is true also of mortal sinners. Those who commit venial sins are like withering, dying branches, who will eventually fall off if they are not restored to health. Jesus, without delay come heal us!