Explanation of Advent’s “O Antiphons” as found in The Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal

652 Veni Veni Emmanuel (The “O” Antiphons)
Old Testament titles for the Messiah

Veni Veni Emmanuel (The “O” Antiphons) 653
Trs.: Mgr. Ronald A. Knox (d. 1957)

COME, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
R. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

COME, of Gentile hearts the King,
A world that needs thee ransoming,
And save thy servants, who confess
With humbled hearts their faithlessness. R.

COME, thou Daystar seen on high,
With healing for our hearts draw nigh;
And death’s foreboding darkness quell. R.

COME, thou Key of David’s store,
Unlock the heav’nly gates once more;
Safe journey to thy courts bestowed,
And shut the way that leads below. R.

COME, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o’er the grave. R.

COME, thou everlasting Lord,
Who once by Israel’s host adored
Thy ten commandments most dear known,
In majesty of glory shown. R.

COME, thou Wisdom whose decrees
Dobh govern all things peacefully;
The way of prudence here below
And life hereafter design to show. R.

The Father John Brébeuf Hymnal “has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”

—Author for the Church Music Association of America weblog • 10 June 2022