

O Antiphon - O Clavis David - O Key of David

*O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel;
qui aperis, et nemo claudit;
claudis, et nemo aperit:
veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris,
sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

*O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*



Isaiah had prophesied:

"I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open." Isaiah 22:22. (cf Revelation 3:7)

"His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore." Isaiah 9:7

We are also reminded of the Gospel of Luke 2:3, 4 - "all went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David."

As the key and the scepter are symbols of the power and authority of kings, so are they symbols of Christ's divine authority, and he is the only key to salvation. We may imagine the key opening to us the gates of heaven, the key unlocking the shackles that bind us in sin. (cf Psalm 107: 10, 14.)

The hymn text is this: "O come, thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery."

Click on the link below to listen to a setting of "O come, O Come, Emmanuel" by John Ferguson, retired organist from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn.

<https://youtu.be/wxfAQSA47yM>