Advent Reflection on the O Antiphons #5

O Oriens O Morning Star

Latin: *O Oriens,*
splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae:
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

English: *O Morning Star,*
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

(Note: A literal translation of the Latin yields "O Rising Sun", but the poetic "O Morning Star" or "O Dayspring" is often preferred.)

Isaiah had prophesied:

- "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." *Isaiah 9:2*

The stable in Bethlehem was pointed out by a star, (today there is a special conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the night sky) a bright light shone about the shepherds, and at the stable the 'Light from Light" as we say in the creed, is born to us. This bright light, like the sun, is also the dawning of the God's unending justice in history. Bright light illumines but it can also scorch. It can burn away all darkness and the shadows of doom and gloom, death and sin.

Thoughts to ponder as we prepare for Christmas:

Do I really accept Jesus as the light for my path? In what ways am I light to others? What shadows do I cling to for fear of what might be revealed? What shadows in my life do I need to expose to Christ's purifying light? What am I prepared to do about the dust and brokenness in my life that God's bounteous light might reveal? Has it been hard to see the Light in our current world pandemic? Do I cast my shade on others?