I shall open my mouth and it will be filled with the Spirit, and I shall speak forth to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen joyfully singing her praises, and I shall delight to sing of her wonders.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

When the great Archangel saw thee, O immaculate one, thou living book of Christ, sealed by the Spirit, he cried unto thee: Hail, Vessel of Gladness,
though whom the curse of our first mother is loosed.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, virgin bride of God, thou uplifter of Adam and death-knell of Hades. Hail, O all-blameless one, thou palace of the only King.

Hail, thou fiery throne of the Almighty.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Hail, thou from whom alone didst blossom the Unwithering

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos

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Rose; Hail, thou who didst bear the fragrant

Apple; Hail, immaculate maiden,

fragrance of the King of All and salvation of the world.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, thou treasure house of purity, through

which we rose up from our fall; Hail, Lady, sweet-scented

lily perfuming the faithful;

thou fragrant Incense and most precious myrrh.
As a living and copious fountain, O Theotokos, do thou strengthen those who hymn thy praises, and are joined together in a spiritual company for thy service; and in thy divine glory make them worthy of crowns of glory.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

As a clear and untilled field thou didst make the Divine Ear of Grain to sprout; Hail, thou living table that held the Bread of Life;

Hail, thou unfailing fountain of Living Water.
Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, O mystic heifer that didst bear the Spot-less Calf; Hail, ewe lamb who didst conceive the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the whole world; Hail, thou fervent intercessor.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Hail, O radiant dawn, which alone dost bear Christ the Sun, the dwelling place of Light; Hail, thou who didst dispel the darkness and reduce to naught the demons of gloom.
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, thou only gate through which the Word alone didst pass;

Hail, Lady, for by thy birth-giving the bars and gates of

Hades were burst asunder; Hail, thou most

worthy of all praise, divine entry for the saved.
He Who sits in clouds of glory upon the throne of the Godhead,
Jesus the Most High God, came with mighty hand and
saved those who cried out unto Him: Glory to Thy Power, O Christ!
Most holy Theotokos, save us.
In hymns of faith, O all-praised one, we cry out unto thee:
Hail, thou mountain fertile with the fullness of the Spirit;
Hail, thou lamp of light and vase of manna, to the senses of the reverent most sweet.
Most holy Theotokos, save us.
Hail, immaculate

Lay, mercy-seat of the world;
Hail, thou

Ladder which raised all from earth to grace;
Hail, thou bridge which

Truly leads from death to life all who sing thy praises.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.
Hail, O immaculate one, higher than the

Heavens, thou who didst without

Pain carry within thee the Foundation of the Earth.
Hail, O seashell that didst dip in thy blood the divine purple for the King of the Pow’rs of Heaven.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Hail, Lady, who didst truly bear the Lawgiver that freely blot out the transgressions of all; O unimaginable depth, O height ineffable, O maiden un-
wedded, through whom we are become divine.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

With hymns we praise thee, O thou who didst weave for the world a crown not woven by hands; Hail to thee, O Virgin, do we cry: fortress of all mankind, and rampart, and strength, and refuge divine.
All creation was amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O unwedded Virgin, didst hold within thee the God of All, and didst bear the Eternal Son, Who re-wards with salvation all who hymn thy praises.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, O all-blameless, who didst bear the Way of Life and save the world from the deluge of sin; Hail, bride of God, thou of great report and mighty fame; Hail, thou—
dwellington place of the Master of Creation.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, O immaculate one, stronghold and fortress of mankind, and place of hallowed glory;

deathknell of Hades, bridal-chamber full of light;

Hail, joy of the angels; Hail, help of those who faithfully pray unto thee.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.
Hail, O Lady, fiery chariot of the Word; living paradise having the Lord, the Tree of Life, in thy midst; His sweetness gives life to those who partake in faith, even though they be subject to corruption.

Gloiry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Strengthened by thy might, faithfully we cry out unto thee: Hail, city of the King of All, great in glory and repute, of whom all these were clearly spoken;
O mount un-hewn and depth beyond all measure.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou spacious tabernacle of the Word; Hail! O immaculate one. Thou sea-shell which did profess the Divine Pearl, Hail, O all-wondrous one; thou art the reconciliation to God, O Theotokos, of all who ever bless thee.
As we, the Godly-minded, celebrate this sacred and all-honorable feast of the Mother of God, come, let us clap our hands together and glorify the God Whom she bore.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Immaculate bridal-chamber of the Word, and aid to the sanctification of us all, Hail! O all-pure maiden,
whom the Prophets did proclaim; Hail, thou ornament of the Apostles! Most holy Theotokos, save us.

From thee the dew distilled that quenched the flame of polytheism;

wherefore, we cry unto thee, O Virgin,

Hail! O dewy fleece which Gideon did foresee.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Behold, we cry unto thee: Hail! Be
thou our haven and our port when we voyage on the
sea of tribulations and through the snares of the adversary.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O cause of joy, favor us with reason to

cry unto thee: Hail, thou

bush that burns yet unconsumed, thou light-filled cloud

which unceasingly shelters the faithful.
The Godly mind-ed children worshipped not the creature
rather than the Creator, but trampling upon the threat of fire in
manly fashion, they rejoiced and sang:

O All Praised Lord and God of our Fathers,
blessed art Thou. Most holy Theotokos, save us.

To thee we sing a hymn and cry: Hail! Chariot
of the mystic sun; true vine that did produce the ripe
cluster of grapes, dripping wine to gladden the souls of
those who with faith do glorify thee.
Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Hail, thou Bride of God, who didst bear the Healer of Man-kind; the mystic staff from which blossomed the Unfading Flower;

Hail, O sov-reign Lady, through whom we are filled with joy, *and made in-heritors of life.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

The tongue of eloquence has not power to sing thy praises, O sov-reign Lady,
for thou wast exalted above the Seraphim when thou didst bear Christ the King; do thou now implore Him to deliver from all harm those who faithfully reverence thee.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

The ends of the earth do praise and bless thee, and cry out unto thee: Hail, pure Maiden, scroll on which the finger of God did inscribe His Word; do thou now implore Him, O Theotokos, to write down thy servants in the Book of Life.
Both now and ever, and un-to ages of ages. Amen.

We thy servants bend the knee of our hearts and im-

-plore thee, O pure Maiden: incline thine ear, and

save us, who are engulfed in trib-ulations;

-and guard thy city, O Theotokos, from
ev'ry assault of her enemies.
The three holy children in the furnace the

Child of the Theotokos saved; then was the
type, now is its fulfillment, and the whole world
gathers to sing: All ye works, praise the Lord,
and magnify Him unto all ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Thou didst receive the Word within thee, O pure Maiden,
and didst bear Him Who beareth all things; thou didst
nour-ish Him with milk, Who by His nod dost sus-tain all the
u-ni-verse; to Him we sing: All ye works, praise the Lord, and
mag-ni-fy Him unto all ages.

Most ho-ly The-o-tokos, save us.

Mos-es per-ceived in the burn-ing bush the great mys-
t'ry of thy birth-giv-ing, O chaste and ho-ly Vir-gin; the
chil-dren pre-fi-gured this most clear-ly when they
stood in the midst of the flame and were un-burned;
wherefore we praise thee unto all ages.

Most holy Theotokos, save us. We, who of old were made naked by deceit, have been clothed in a garment of incorruption by thy conception; and we who were sitting in the darkness of transgressions have come to see the light, O Maiden who art the dwelling place of Light: therefore, we praise thee unto all ages.

Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Through thee the dead are made to live, for thou didst bear the Life Essential; those who before were speechless now find useful eloquence, lepers are cleansed, diseases are driven away, and the multitude of aerial spirits are vanquished, O Virgin, salvation of mortals.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We hail thee, O all-blessed one, who didst bring forth salvation for the world, through which we have been
raised from earth to heights above; O pure Maiden, thou art shelter and stronghold, bulwark and fortress of all who sing: All ye works, praise the Lord, and magnify Him unto all ages.

(There is no final ending yet. Continue on with Ode 9.)
Let all earth-born mortals rejoice in spirit, bearing their lamps, and let the nature of bodiless minds celebrate with honor the holy festival of the Mother of God, and cry out:

Hail, all-blessed, pure and ever-virgin Theotokos!

Most holy Theotokos, save us. Through thee, O Maiden, have we faithful become partakers of joy, so that we may further cry out unto thee: Hail! Do
Thou hast appeared to enlighten us and be our confirmation, wherefore we cry aloud to thee: Hail! O unsetting star which did introduce into the world the mighty Sun; Hail, pure maiden,
who didst open up fast-closed Eden; Hail, fiery pillar, which doth lead man's nature to the life above." Most holy Theotokos, save us.

Let us stand with reverence in the house of our God, and let us cry aloud: Hail, mistress of the world; Hail, Mary, Lady of us all; Hail, thou who alone art blameless among women, and beautiful; Hail, Vessel, which didst receive into thyself the myrrh which was never before out-poured.
Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

Hail, O Ev-er-vir-gin, thou dove who didst bring forth Him Who is mer-ci-ful. Hail, Boast of all the right-eous saints and crown of those who strive. Hail, or-na-ment di-vine of all the just, and of us the faith-ful, our sal-va-tion as well.

Both now and ev-er, and un-to ag-es of ag-es. A-men.

Spare, O God, Thine in-her-i-tance, and o-ver-look now all our sins. For as in-ter-ces-sor in Thy sight, O Christ,
there stands before Thee she that on
earth conceived Thee without seed, when in Thy

Great Mercy Thou hast willed to be shaped in a
form that was not Thine own.