

Canon of the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos

Ode 1

Basil Kazan
(1915 - 2001)

Tone 4
Heirmos

I shall o - pen my mouth and it will be filled with the
 Spir - it, and I shall speak forth to the Queen and
 Moth - er. I shall be seen joy - ful - ly sing - ing her
 prais - es, and I shall de-light to sing of her won - ders.

(Adapted throughout)

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

When the great Arch - an - gel saw thee, O im - mac - u - late
 one, thou liv - ing book of Christ, sealed by the Spir - it, he
 cried un - to thee: Hail, Ves - sel of Glad - ness,

though whom the curse of our first - moth - er is loosed.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save _____ us.

Hail, vir - gin bride _____ of God, thou up - lift - er of

Ad - am and death - knell of Ha - des. Hail, O all -

- blame - less one, thou pal - ace of the on - ly King.

Hail, thou fier - y throne of thē Al - might - y.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it. (Adapted throughout)

Hail, thou from whom a - lone didst blos-som thē Un - with - er-ing

Un.

Rose; Hail, thou who didst bear the fragrant

E

Ap - ple; Hail, im - mac - u - late maid - en,

G

fra-grance of the King of All and sal - va - tion of the world.

(Adapted throughout)

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

G

Hail, thou treas - ure - house of pu - ri - ty, through

Un.

which we rose up from our fall; Hail, La - dy, sweet-scent-ed

E

lil - y per - fum - ing the faith - ful;

G

thou__ fra - grant In - cense and most__ pre - cious myrrh.

Tone 4
Heirmos

Ode 3

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

E

As a liv - ing and cop-ious foun - tain, O The-o - to - kos, do thou

strength - en those who hymn thy prais - es, and are joined to -

- geth - er in a spir - it - ual com - pa - ny for thy ser - vice;

and in thy di - vine glo - ry make them wor - thy of crowns of glo - ry.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

As a clear and un-tilled field thou didst make the Di - vine Ear of

Grain to sprout; Hail, thou liv-ing ta - ble that held the Bread of Life;

Hail, thou un - fail - ing foun - tain of Liv - ing Wa - ter.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save _____ us.

Hail, O mys - tic heif - er that didst bear the Spot-less Calf; Hail, ewe -

G
E

- lamb who didst con - ceive the Lamb of God that tak - eth a-way the

sins of the whole world; Hail, thou fer-vent in - ter - ces - sor.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

G

Hail, O ra - diant dawn, which a - lone dost bear Christ _____ the

E

Un.

Sun, the dwell-ing place of Light; Hail, thou who _____ didst dis - pel the

E

dark - ness and re - duce to naught the de - mons of gloom.____

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

Hail, thou on - ly gate through which the Word a - lone didst pass;

Hail, La - dy, for by thy birth - giv - ing the bars and gates of

Ha - des were burst a - sund - er; Hail, thou most

wor - thy of all praise, di - vine E en - try for the saved.

Ode 4

Basil Kazan
 Canon of the Akathist
 Hymn to the Theotokos

Tone 4
 Heirmos

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are in English, referring to the Theotokos and Christ. The notation includes several melodic peaks marked with G and E above the staff.

He Who sits in clouds of glo - ry up-on the throne of the God - head,

Je - sus the Most High God, came with might - y hand and

saved those who cried out un-to Him: Glo-ry to Thy Pow - er, O Christ!

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

In hymns of faith, O all - praised one, we cry out un - to thee:

Hail, thou moun-tain fer - tile with the full - ness of the Spir - it;

Hail, thou lamp of light and vase of man - na, to the

sens - es of the rev - 'rent most sweet.

Canon - Ode 4

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

E

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us. Hail, im - mac - u - late

La - y, mer - cy - seat of the world; Hail, thou

lad - der which raised all from earth to grace; Hail, thou bridge which

G

tru - ly leads from death to life all who sing thy prais - es.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

Hail, O im - mac - u - late one, high - er than the

heav - - - ens, thou who didst with - out

pain car - ry with - in thee the Foun - da - tion of thē Earth.

Canon - Ode 4

Basil Kazan
 Canon of the Akathist
 Hymn to the Theotokos

Hail, O sea - shell that didst dip in thy

blood the di - vine pur - ple for the

King of the Pow'rs of Heav - en.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the

Ho - ly Spir - it. Hail, La - dy, who didst tru - ly bear the

Law - giv - er that free - ly blot - ted out the trans -

- gres - sions of all; O un - i - mag - i - na - ble

depth, O height in - ef - fa - ble, O maid - en un -

Canon - Ode 4

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

- wed - ded, through whom we are be - come di - vine.

E

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

With hymns we praise thee, O thou who didst weave for the

G

world a crown not wov - en by hands; Hail to thee, O

Vir - gin, do we cry: for - tress of all man -

E

- kind, and ram - part, and strength, and ref - uge di - vine._

Ode 5

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

Tone 4
Heirmos

E

All cre - a - tion was a - mazed at thy di - vine glo - ry, for

G

thou, O un - wed - ded Vir - gin, didst hold with - in thee the

E **Un.** **E**

God____ of All, and didst bear the E - ter-nal Son, Who re -

-wards with sal - va - tion all who hymn thy prais - es.

E

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save____ us.

Hail, O all - blame - less, who didst bear the Way____ of Life and save the

world from the del - uge____ of sin; Hail, bride of

God, thou of great re - port and might - y fame; Hail, thou__

Canon - Ode 5

Basil Kazan
 Canon of the Akathist
 Hymn to the Theotokos

dwell-ing-place of the Mas - ter of Cre - a - tion.

E

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

Un. **E**

Hail, O im - mac - u - late one, strong - hold and

for - tress of man-kind, and place of hal-lowed glo - ry;

Un. **E**

death - knell of Ha - des, bri - dal-cham-ber full of light;

G

Hail, joy of the an - gels; Hail, help of those who

faith - ful - ly pray un - to thee.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

Hail, O La - dy, fier - y char-i - ot of the Word; liv - ing

par - a - dise hav - ing the Lord, the Tree of Life, in thy

midst; His sweet - ness gives life to those who par - take in faith,

e - ven though they be sub - ject to cor - rup - tion.

E

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Strength-en ed by thy might, faith - ful - ly we cry out un - to

G

thee: Hail, cit - y of the King of All, great in glo - ry and re -

E

- pute, of whom all these were clear - ly spo - ken;

O mount un - hewn and depth be - yond all meas - ure.

E

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

G

Thou spa-cious tab - er - na - cle of the Word; Hail! O im -

- mac - u - late one. Thou sea - shell which did prof-fer the Di -

Un. **E**

- vine_ Pearl, Hail, O all - won-drous one; thou art the

G **E**

rec - on - cil - i - a - tion to God, O The - o - to - kos,

of all who ev - er bless thee.

Ode 6

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

Tone 4
Heirmos

As we, the God - ly - mind - ed, cel - e - brate this

sa - cred and all - hon - 'ra - ble feast of the Moth - er of

God, come, let us clap our hands to - geth - er and

glo - ri - fy the God Whom she bore.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

Im - mac-u - late bri-dal-cham-ber of the Word, and aid to the

sanc - ti - fi - ca-tion of us all, Hail! O all - pure maid - en,

whom the Proph-ets did pro-claim; Hail, thou or-na-ment of

thē A - pos - tles! Most ho - ly The-o - to-kos, save us.

From thee the dew dis - till'd that quenced the flame of pol-y - the-is - m;

where - fore, we cry__ out__ un - to thee, O Vir - gin,

Hail! O__ dew-y fleece which Gid - e - on did fore-see.__

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Be - hold, we__ cry out un - to thee: Hail! Be

thou our ha - ven and our port when we voy-age on the

sea of trib-u - la - tions and through the snares of thē ad-ver-sar - y.

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

O cause of joy, fa - vor us with rea - son to

cry out un - to thee: Hail, thou

bush that burns yet un - con - sumed, thou light-filled cloud

which un - ceas - ing - ly shel - ters the faith - ful.

Ode 7

Tone 4
Heirmos

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

The God-ly mind-ed chil - dren wor-shipped not the crea - ture

rath-er than the Cre - a - tor, but tram-pling up-on the threat of fire in

man - ly fash - ion, they re - joiced____ and sang:

O All - Praised Lord and God of our Fa - thers,

bless - ed art Thou. Most ho - ly The-o - to-kos, save us.

To thee we sing a hymn and cry:__ Hail! Char - i - ot

of the mys - tic sun; true_ vine that did pro - duce the ripe

clus - ter of grapes, drip-ping wine to glad - den the souls of

those_ who with faith do glo - ri - fy____ thee.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save _____

Hail, — thou — Bride of God, who didst bear the

Heal - er of Man - kind; the mys - tic staff from which

blos - somed the Un - fad - ing Flow - er;

Hail, O sov - 'reign La - dy, through whom we are

filled with joy, *and made in - her - i - tors of life. —

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

The tongue of el - o - quence has not pow - er to
Un.

sing thy prais - es, O — sov - 'reign La - dy,

(*This translation allows for a better understanding of the meaning.)

for thou wast ex - alt - ed a - bove the Ser-a - phim when thou didst bear

Christ the King; do thou now im - plore Him to de - liv - er from all

harm those who faith - ful - ly rev - er - ence thee.

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Thē ends of thē earth do praise and bless thee, and cry

out un - to thee: Hail, pure Maid - en,

scroll on which the fin - ger of God did in - scribe His Word;

do thou now im - plore Him, O The - o - to - - - kos,

to write down thy ser - vants in the Book of Life.

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

E We thy ser - vants bend the knee of our hearts and im -

Un.

E - plore thee, O pure Maid - en: in - cline thine ear, and

Un.

G save us, who are en - gulfed in trib - u - la - - -

E - tions; and guard thy cit - y, O The - o - to - kos, from

ev - 'ry as - sault of her en - e - mies.

Ode 8

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

Tone 4
Heirmos

Un.

The three ho - ly chil - dren in the fur - nace the

Child of the The - o - to - kos saved; then was the

type, now is its ful - fill - ment, and the whole world

gath - ers to sing: All ye works, praise the Lord,

and mag - ni - fy— Him un - to all ag - es.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

D E

Thou didst re-ceive the Word with-in thee, O pure Maid - en,

and didst bear— Him Who bear-eth all— things; thou didst

Canon - Ode 8

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

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 un - to all ag - es.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, 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 - fig - ured this most clear - ly when they

stood in the midst of the flame and were un-burned;

Canon - Ode 8

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

where - fore we praise thee un - to all ag - es.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us. We, who of

old were made na - ked by de - ceit, have been clothed in a

gar - ment of in - cor - rup - tion by thy con - cep - tion; and

we who were sit - ting in the dark - ness of trans - gres - sions have

come to see the light, O Maid - en who art the dwell-ing place of

Light: where - fore, we praise thee un - to all ag - es.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Canon - Ode 8

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

E

Through thee the dead are made to live, for thou didst bear the

713

Life Es - sen - tial; those who be - fore were speech - less now

G

find use-ful el - oquence, lep - ers are cleansed, dis - eas - es are

E

driv - en a - way, and the mul - ti-tude of aer - ial spir - its are

van - quished, O Vir - gin, sal - va - tion of mor - tals.

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

E

We hail thee, O all - bless - ed one, who didst

bring forth sal - va-tion for the world, through which we have been

Canon - Ode 8

Basil Kazan
Canon of the Akathist
Hymn to the Theotokos

raised from earth to heights a - bove; O pure Maid - en,

thou art shel - ter and strong - hold, bul - wark and for - tress of

all who sing: All ye works, praise the Lord, and

mag - ni - fy____ Him un - to all ag - es.

(There is no final ending yet. Continue on with Ode 9.)

Tone 4
Heirmos

Ode 9

Basil Kazan
Akathist Hymn
to the Theotokos

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes. The score includes several melodic entries, some starting with a forte dynamic (e.g., 'Hail!') and others more softly (e.g., 'Let all earth-born mortals...'). The lyrics are in English, referring to the Theotokos and her divine nature.

E

Let all earth-born mortals re-joice in spir - it, bear - ing their

lamps, and let the na - ture of bod - i - less minds

G

cel - e - brate with hon - or the ho - ly fes - ti - val of the

Moth - er of God, and cry ____ out:

G

Hail, all-bless-ed, pure and ev-er-vir-gin The - o - to - kos!

E

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us. Through thee, O

E

Maid - en, have we faith - ful be-come par - tak - ers of

G

joy, so that we may fur - ther cry out un - to thee: Hail! Do

Canon - Ode 9

Basil Kazan
Akathist Hymn
to the Theotokos

thou de - liv - er us from per - pet - u - al temp - ta - tion,

Un. **E** from bar - bar - ic at - tack, and from all the mul-ti-tude of e - vils

which we mor - tals suf-fer for the num - ber of our sins.

Most ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save us.

Thou hast ap - peared to en - light-en us and be our con-firm -

- a - tion, where - fore we cry a - loud

to____ thee: Hail!____ O un - set - ting star which did

E in - tro-duce in - to the world the might-y Sun; Hail, pure maid - en,

Canon - Ode 9

Basil Kazan
Akathist Hymn
to the Theotokos

who didst o - pen up fast-closed E - den; Hail, fier - y

pil - lar, which doth lead man's na - ture to the

life a - bove." Most ho - ly The-o - to-kos, save us.

Let us stand with rev - 'rence in the house of our God, and let us

cry a-loud: Hail, mis-tress of the world; Hail, Mar - y,

La-dy of us all; Hail, thou who a-lone art blame - less a - mong

wom - en, and beau-ti - ful; Hail, O ves - sel, which didst re - ceive in -

- to thy - self the myrrh which was nev - er be - fore out-poured.

Canon - Ode 9

Basil Kazan
Akathist Hymn
to the Theotokos

The musical score consists of eight staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (G major). The lyrics are integrated with the music, with some words highlighted in bold.

Staff 1: Glory to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Staff 2: Hail, O Ev-er-vir - gin, thou dove who didst bring forth

Staff 3: Him Who is mer-ci-ful. Hail, Boast of all the right-eous saints and

Staff 4: crown of those who strive. Hail, or-na-ment di - vine of all the just,

Staff 5: and of us the faith - ful, our sal - va - tion as well.

Staff 6: Both now and ev - er, and un-to ag - es of ag - es. A - men.

Staff 7: Spare, O God, Thine in - her-i-tance, and o-ver - look now all our

Staff 8: sins. For as in - ter - ces-sor in Thy sight, O Christ,

Canon - Ode 9

Basil Kazan
Akathist Hymn
to the Theotokos

there stands be - fore Thee she that on

earth con - ceived Thee with - out seed, when in Thy

Great Mer - cy Thou hast willed to be shaped in a

form that was not Thine own.

Un.