Ode 1

Of old the Master that works wonders saved His people,

Making the watery wave of the sea into dry land; And now of

His own will has He been born from a Maiden, and so He

establishes a path for us whereby we may mount to heaven.
Ode 3

Gracious ly ac cept, O Be ne fa tor, the prais es of Thy ser vants,

and bring down the despi teful and haughty looks of the en e my.

O bless ed Lord who see est all, raise us up far a bove sin, and

estab lish Thy singers firm and un sha ken up on the foun da tion of the Faith.
Ode 4

Of old Habakkuk the prophet was counted worthy to behold
ineffably the figure and symbol of Christ's birth,
and he foretold in song the renewal of mankind.

For a young babe, even the Word, has now come forth from the
mountain that is the Virgin, unto the renewal of the peoples.

Canon II: Nativity of our Lord
Ode 5

From the night of deeds of dark error we watch vigilantly,
and sing to Thee, O Christ, as to our Benefactor.

Come to us and grant us cleansing: make the path easy for us,
whereby we may ascend and so attain to glory.
En-closed in the ut-ter-most depths of the sea, Jo-nah en-treat-ed

Thee to come and still the storm. And I, O Christ, pricked by the dart

of the ty-rant, Call up-on Thee, the Slayer of e-vil, be-seech-ing

Thee to come quick-ly and de-liv-er me from my sloth-ful-ness.
Caught and held fast by love for the King of all,

the Children despised the impious threats of the tyrant

in his boundless fury; and as the terrible fire withdrew before them,

they said to the Master, 'Unto all ages blessed art Thou.'
Before the Katavasia of the 8th Ode:

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord,

praising and supremely exalting Him unto all the ages.
Ode 8

The children of the Old Covenant who walked in the fire,
yet were not burnt, prefigured the womb of the Maiden that remained sealed, when she gave birth in fashion past nature. It was the same grace of God that brought forth both these wonders to pass in a miracle and rouses the peoples to sing in praise.
It would be easier for us, because free from all danger, to keep silence in fear: While it is hard indeed, O Virgin,
in love to devise songs harmoniously put together. But do thou, O Mother, give us strength so that we may fulfill our good intent.
Canon II: Nativity of our Lord

Refrains of the 2nd Canon:

To-day the Virgin bears the Master within the cave.

To-day the Master is born as a babe of a Virgin Mother

To-day shep-herds behold the Saviour wrapped in swaddling clothes

and laid in a manger.
Canon II: Nativity of our Lord

Refrains (cont.)

Today the Master who cannot be touched is wrapped as

a babe in swaddling rags.

Today all creation rejoices greatly and makes glad, for Christ

is born of a Virgin Maid.
The powers of heaven declare unto the world that the Savior, Lord and Master has been born.

Magnify, O my soul, her that has delivered us from the curse.

Translation by Mother Mary & Archimandrite Kallistos Ware,
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Carol Surgant
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