Angelus Ad Virginem

*By Gerard Manley Hopkins (trans)*

Gabriel, from heaven's king   
Sent to the maiden sweet,   
Brought to her blissful tiding  
And fair 'gan her to greet.   
" Hail be thou, full of grace aright!   
For so God's Son, the heaven's light,   
Loves man, that He a man will be and take   
Flesh of thee, maiden bright,   
Mankind free for to make   
Of sin and devil's might."   
  
Gently to him gave answer   
The gentle maiden then:   
" And in what wise should I bear   
Child, that know not man?"   
The angel said: " O dread thee nought.   
'Tis through the Holy Ghost that wrought   
Shall be this thing whereof tiding I bring:   
Lost mankind shall be bought   
By thy sweet childbearing,   
And back from sorrow brought."   
  
When the maiden understood   
And the angel's words had heard,   
Mildly, of her own mild mood,   
The angel she answered:   
" Our Lord His handmaiden, I wis,   
I am, that here above us is:   
As touching me fulfilled be thy saw;   
That I, since His will is,   
Be, out of nature's laws   
A maid with mother's bliss."   
  
The angel went away thereon   
And parted from her sight   
And straightway she conceived a Son   
Through th' Holy Ghost His might.   
In her was Christ contained anon,   
True God, true man, in flesh and bone;   
Born of her too when time was due; who then   
Redeemed us for His own,   
And bought us out of pain,   
And died for us t'atone.   
  
Filled full of charity,   
Thou matchless maiden-mother,   
Pray for us to him that He   
For thy love above other,   
Away our sin and guilt should take,   
And clean of every stain us make   
And heaven's bliss, when our time is to die,   
Would give us for thy sake;   
With grace to serve him by   
Till He us to him take. Amen.