

Hail O Star of the Ocean/Sea (Ave Maris Stella)

A popular liturgical hymn of unknown origin. It can be dated back to at least the 9th century for it is preserved in the Codex Sangallensis, a 9th century manuscript now in the Swiss Monastery of St. Gallen. Its appearance in the Codex points to a composition in possibly the 8th century. The hymn is frequently attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) and sometimes has been attributed to King Robert (1031), both of whom are too late to have authored it.

Chorus

Hail, O Star of the ocean, God's own mother blest,
Ever sinless virgin, gate of heavenly rest.

Verse 1

Taking that sweet Ave, which from Gabriel came,
Peace confirm within us, changing Eva's name.
Break the sinners' fetters; make our blindness day;
Chase all evils from us; for all blessings pray.

Chorus

Verse 2

Show thyself a mother; may the Word divine,
Born for us thine infant, hear our prayers through thine.
Virgin all excelling, mildest of the mild,
Free from guilt preserve us, meek and undefiled.

Chorus

Keep our life all spotless; make our way secure
Till we find in Jesus joy forevermore.
Praise to God the Father, honor to the Son,
In the Holy Spirit, be the glory one.

Chorus

Music composed by Bernard Leclerc
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