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 <Text: Mirror of the Life of Christ>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 5r>he conquered man be wicked slei3t and false wisdom . so he be ouer-comen and wenkesched be gode slei3t and trewe wisdom . / . . And when Resoun seide þis verdite : þe fader seide it was his wille þat it schulde be so . þe sonne 3af gladly his assente þerto . and þe holy gost seide he wolde wirche þer-to also . And þane fallinge doune alle þe Spiritis of heuene & souerenly þanking þe *trinite* . þe foure sistris afore-seide weren kissed and maade acorde . and so was fulfillid þat þe *prophete* Daudid seide . Mercy and Soþefastnes metten lowly to-gedere . Rightwisnesse & pees haue kyssed . And þus was *termyned* & endid þe gret counsel in heuene for þe restorynge of man & his sauacioun . þe wiche processe schal be taken as in likenes & onliche as a+maner of a+perabel & deuoute ymaginacioun stiringe man to loue god souerenly for his grete mercy to man and his endeles godenes . Also to honoure & worschipe þe blesside aunglis of heuene . for here gode wille to man . and for his sauacioun hauynge contynuele bisnes . and also to loue *vertues* & hate synne þ^t brou3te man to so grette wrechidnesse . and þus mikel & in þis manere . may be seide & þou3te be deuoute contemplacioun of þat þat was donne aboue in heuene before þe incarnacioun of ihesu . nowe go we doune to erþe : and þenke we how it stode wiþ his blessid moder Marie . & wat was hir lyuyng here be-fore þe incarnacioun of ihesu þ^t foloweþ aftur ; /

Off þe manere of lyuyng of þe blessid virgine marie . : /

AS it is writen in þe life of oure lady sent marie : whan sche was iij . 3ere olde . sche was offered in þe temple of hir fader & moder . and þer sche abode & dwellide into þe xiiij 3ere . And what sche dide . and howe sche lyued þer in þat tyme we mowen knowe be þe reuelaciouns made of hir : to a+deuoute woman wiche men trowen was Sent Eli3abeth . In þe wiche reuelaciones is contunede amounge oþer . þ^t oure lady tolde to þe same woman & seide in þis maner / / / whane my fader & moder laftene me in þe temple J prop.^[o]sside and sette stabily in my herte to haue god in-to my fader . and ofte . ^[siþis] wiþ grete deuocioun J þou3t what J mi3t do plesinge to god . so þ^t he wolde wische-saue to sende me his *grace* . and her-wiþ J was tau3te . & J lerned þe lawe of my god . in þe wiche lawe of alle þe hestis & biddingis principalý J kept þre in my herte . þe first is þ^u

schalt loue þi lorde god wiþ alle þine herte . wiþ alle þi soule wiþ alle þi mynde & wiþ alle þi mi3ttes
 þe secounde þou schalt loue þi+nei3tbore as þi self . And þe þrede is þou schalt hate þin ennemye .
 þes J
 kepte truly in herte & anone J conceyued and tooke alle þe vertues þat ben contuned in hem . For
 þer may
 no soule haue any vertu but it loue god w^t alle þe herte : for of þis loue comeþ alle þe plente of grace
 . & aftur
 it is comen it abideþ not in soule but reineþ oute as watur . but it so be þat he hate ennemyes . þat is
 to sey vices & synnes . wherfore he þat wole haue grace & kepe it : it behoueþ þat he dispose and
 ordeyne
 his herte to loue . and to hate as it is seide . and so J wole þat þou do in manere as J dide . J rose vp
 al-gatis
 at middeny3t & wente forþe be-fore þe auter of þe temple & þer wiþ als grete desire & wille &
 affecioun
 as J koude and mi3t . J asked grace of almi3ty god to kepe þoo þre hestis . & alle oþer biddings of
 þe lawe .
 and so standyg~ to-fore þe auter J made seuene peticiouns to god . þe wiche bene þes . First J asked
 grace
 of god þour þe wiche J mi3t fulfille þe he<ill><a smudge></ill> loue . þ^t is to seie for to loue him
 wiþ alle my herte . þe secounde
 <fol. 5v>J askid þat J mi3t loue my nei3tbore as my-self aftur his wille & aftur his likinge : & þat he
 wolde make
 me to loue alle þat he loueþ . þe þrede þat he wolde make me to hate & to eschewe alle þinge þat he
 hatip .
 þe fourþe J asked mekenes pacience benigne swetnesse : & alle oþer vertues be þe wiche J mi3t be
 gracious
 and plesinge to goddis si3t . þe fifte peticioun J made to god : þ^t he wolde lette me see þe tyme in þe
 wiche
 þ^t blesside maiden schulde be borne þat schulde conceyue & bere goddis sonne . & þ^t he wolde kepe
 my eyene
 þ^t J mi3t see hir . Myn eres þat J mi3t here hir . speike . My tonge þ^t J mi3t praise hir . My handes
 þat
 J mi3t serue hir w^t . My feete þat J mi3t go to hir seruice . & my knees w^t þe wiche þ^t J mi3t honoure
 hir and worchepe godis sone in hir barme . þe sixte peticioun J asked grace to be obediente to þe
 biddynge
 and þe ordinaunces of þe bischope of þe temple . And in þe seuene peticioun J praide god to kepe
 alle
 þe pupel to his seruice . and whane þe forseide <exp>s</exp> cristes seruant hade herde þes wordis
 she seid a3ene

A+swete lady were not ful of *grace* & of alle *vertues* . and þe blesside maiden marie answered . witte þou
 wel for certayne þat J helde my-self als gilty moste abiecte & vnworþi þe *grace* of god as þ^u . &
 more-
 ouere trowest þ^u dou3tur þat alle þe *grace* þat J hadde w^oute *trauele* . Nay not so . Bm J telle þe &
 do þe
 to witte þat J hadde no *grace* 3ifte nor *vertue* of god wiþ-oute grete *trauele* . continuel *praier*~ .
 ardente desire
 . profounde deuocioun . & wiþ many tears & miche affleccioun . Speikinge þenkyng & doinge
 alweye
 as J knouþe and mi3te . þat was plesinge to god . þat is to seie outetake þe hooly *grace* þorow þe
 wiche J was halouede in my moders wombe / / . And fourþermore our lady seide witte þ^u we <?>
 in+certa<?>
 ne þat þer comeþ no *grace* in to mannes soule but be *praier* & bodily aff^leccion~ . and aftur þat we
 haue 3eue
 to god þo þingis þat we mowen . þou3 þei ben litel and fewe : þane comeþ he into þe soule .
 bryngginge
 w^t him so grete & so hi3e 3iftis . of *grace* . þat it semeþ to þe soule . þat sche failiþ in hir self &
 leseþ mynde and þenkeþ þat euere she seide or dide any þinge plesinge to god . & þane she symiþ in
 hir owne si3t more foule & more werschede þane she was euere afore . Alle þis sentence is contuned
 in þe forseide reuelaciouns . also sent Jerom writinge of hir lijf seiþ in þ^{is} manere . þ^t þe blesside
 maiden
 Marie ordeyneþ to hir self þis manere of rewle in lyuyng þat fro þe morowe tide . in-to þe tierce of
 þe day : sche 3affe hir al to *praieris* . & fro þe tierce in-to none sche occupied hir bodily wiþ
 wonyng
 werke . and efte fro none she wente not fro *praieris* til þe angel of god came . & appered to hir . of
 whos hande she toke mete to þe bodily sustinance . and so she profitid algatis bettur & bettur in þe
 werke & þe loue of gode . and so it befelle þat she was founden in wakinge þe first in þe wisdom
 of godis lawe most knouynge . in mekenes most lowe . in þe songe of þe psalmis of dauid ; moste
 conuenient & semely in charite moste *gracious* . in clennes most clene & in alle manere *vertue* most
 perfite .
 She was sadde & inuariabel so ferforþe . þat as she profitid al day better & better . so was þer none .
 þ^t
 euer saw3he or herde hir wroþe . Alle hir speche was so ful of *grace* : þat god was knowen be hir
 tounge . She was contynuelly dwellinge in *praier*~ & in þe lore of goddis lawe . & algatis bisi aboute
 hir felawes þat none of hem schulde trespase or synne in any worde . & þ^t none schulde lawh
 dissolutly
 . & also þat none of hem schulde offende oper þour pride or any wronge . and euere w^out failynge
 she blessid god . and left perchaunse be any gretinge or preisinge sche schulde be lettid fro þe

louynge

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 57v><line 28> þere was nye þ^t place of þe crosse þe space of two stones caste a+newe graue
 wher-inne none bodye
 was biriede afore . & þer-inne wiþ reurence knelinge þei leiden him wiþ grete sihhingis sobbingis &
 wepingis . & aftur þat he was so biriede & his moder hadde 3euen him hir blessinge ; þei leiden a
 grete
 stone at þe dore of þe graue & went her weye towarde þe cite þat is to seie . Joseph & his felowchipe
 . But Joseph at his goinge spake to oure lady & seide . my lady J praie 3ow for godis loue & for
 þe loue of 3oure sone our maistir þat 3e wischesafe to come & take 3oure herborowe in myne house
 For J wotte welle þ^t 3e haue none hous of 3our owne . wherfore takeþ myne as 3our . for alle my ben
 3ours .
 & in þe same manere . nichodeme praied on his side . & she louely enclynynge to hem & þanking
 hem
 answerede & seide þ^t she was comittide to þe gouernayle of Jon . wherfore þane þei praide Jon þe
 <fol. 58r>same . & he answerede þat he wolde lede hir in-to mount Syon . wher here maistir somede
 on þe day afore .
 at euone wiþ his discipulis & þere wolde he abide wiþ hir . and so þei lowely saluyng eoure lady and
 worchippinge þe sepulcours 3eden forþe on her weye
what was done of oure lady & oper aftur þe biriynge of ihesu
 Whane it drewe to ny3t Jon spake to oure lady & seide it is not honeste for to dwelle lenger
 and for to come in-to þe cite in þe ny3t . wherfore if it be 3oure wille : go we hense & turne
 we a3eyne . & þer-w^t oure lady risiþ vp & wiþ alle hem knelinge blesside & kisside þe sepulcur &
 seide My
 sone J may no lenger stande here wiþ þee . but J comende þe to þi fader . & þane liftinge vp hir eyne
 in-to heuene wiþ teres & in-warde affeccioun & seide . Euerelastinge fader J recomende to 3o3w my
 sone
 & my soule þe wiche J leue here wiþ him . & þer-w^t þei be-gonne al+to go her weye . and whane þei
 comen
 to þe crosse ; þer she knelede doune & honourede þe crosse & seide her~ made my sonne his ende ;
 & here is his
 precieuse blode & so+diden alle þe toper For þou maist þenke & vnderstande þat she was þe first þ^t
 honourede
 þe crosse . as she was þe firste þat honourede hir sone borne . and aftur fro þens þei toke þe weye
 towarde þe cite . & ofte be þe weye she lokede a3eyne towarde hir sone . and whane þei comen þer
 as

þei mi3t no more see þe crosse : oure lady & alle oþer knelide & honoured it wepinge . & whane þe comen
 nye the cite oure lady sisteris hilede her face in manere of a+mornynge widowe . & þei 3eden afore :
 & oure lady
 folowede aftur betwixe mawdeleyne & Jon so keuerede þe face . þane mawdeleyne at þe entre of
 þe citee . desiringe to haue oure lady to hir house before þe takinge of þe weie þat ladde þiderwarde
 she spake to oure lady & seide . My lady J *praie* 3ou for þe loue of my maistir 3oure sone . þ^t 3e
 wolde
 lette vs go to oure house in-to betanye þer we mowe beste abide . For as 3e knowen wele my maistir
 louede wele þat place & came gladly ofte siþis þerto . & þat house is 3ouris wiþ alle þat J haue
 wherfore J *praie* 3ow þat 3e wole come . & here þane þei begonnen to wepe . But oure lady haldinge
 hir pes & makinge signe to Jon for to answeere & mawdeleyne *prainge* him for þe same mater .
 he answeride and seide . it is more semely þat we go to þe mount syon . namely for so we answerede
 and seide . to oure frendes . wherfore come þou *raþer* w^t hir to þat place . þane seide mawdeleyne
 to Jon . þou woste wele þat J wole go wiþ hir whiþer so euere she goþe & þat J shal neuer leue
 hir . aftur whane þei comen in-to þe cite . þere comene on alle sidis maidens & good matrones to hir
 goinge wiþ hir & sorowynge & confortinge in hir maner . & also goode men þat þer went by hadde
 grete compassioun of hir & weren stiride to wepinge & seiden . Sopely þis day is done a gret wronge
 be oure *princis* to þe sone of þis lady : & god haþ schewede grette tokenes & wonderes by him .
 auise
 hem what þei haue done . & whane þei comen nye þe place þere þei wolde reste : oure lady bowinge
 lowly to þe ladyes þat comen wiþ hir & þankinge hem & þei a3eyne warde to hir . tokene her
 leue of oþer makinge grete lamentacioun & sorowe . & þane oure lady & mawdeleyne & þe oþer
 sisters
 of oure lady 3eden inne to þat house & Jon aftur þat he hadde counget þ^t oþer women & þankede
 hem . stake þe dore aftur hem . þane þei beinge so alle hem selfe to-geder . oure lady lokinge
 aboute þe house & missinge hir louede sone ihesu . wiþ grete sorowe of herte *compleynede* hir &
 <fol. 58v>seide . oo Jon where is nowe my dere sone þat so hie speciale affeccoun hade to þe . O
 mawdeleyne wherre
 is þi maistir þat so tenderly loued þe . & þou so gladly seruidest him . O my dere sisters where is
 nowe
 my sone . Sopely he is gone away fro vs . he þat was alle oure ioye & oure *comforte* & þe li3th of
 oure eiene
 3ei sopely he is gone & þat wiþ so grete anguysche & peyne as 3e alle seene . and þat is þat
 encressip
 my sorowe . þat in alle his peynes we mi3t not helpe him . hise discipulis forsoken him . his fader
 almi3tty god wolde not socure him . and howe sone alle þes þingis a3ens him were done ; 3e knewen
 & sawen . was þere . ^[euere] any þeffe or worste doinge man so sone dampned & putte so dissputuoly to
 dep .

For loo þe laste ni3t he was taken as aþefe : & erely on þe morowe brou3te afore þe iustice . at tierce dampnede . at þe sexte on þe crosse hanged . at none dede . & nowe biriede . O my dere sone a+bittir partinge was þis . & a soroweful mynde is þis of þine foulest & horibelist deþ . þane Jon praiede hir to stinte of suche sorowe-ful wordes . & to cesse of wepinge & *comfortide* hir in þe beste manere he koweþ and þou also be deuoute ymaginacioun as þ^u were þer bodily present *comfort* our lady & þ^t felowschipe prainge hem to ete *sumwhat* . for 3ut þei ben fastinge & aftur to slepe . but J trowe was ful litil . & so takinge hir blessinge go þi weie at þ^{is} tyme .

What oure lady & oþer w^t hir dide vpon þe seturday .

Erly at þe morowe vpon þe saturday stoden in þe forseide hous þe 3ates Sperde . oure lady Jon & oþer wymen afore-namede in grete mornynge & sorowe hauynge in mynde þe grete tribulaciouns & anguish of þe day afore not speiking but be tymes lokynge eche on oþere . In maner as þei donne þat bene ouer-leide wiþ grete mischef & sorowe . & knowen none *comforde* ne no socour . and þer-wiþ herden one knockinge at þe 3ate : & þane þei dreden sore . For alle þinge in þat tyme þei dreden because þat her sikernes and counfort was away . napeles Jon went to þe dore & vnderstandinge þat it was petur comynge in wiþ grete shame wepinge & sobbinge . Saluede oure lady : & oþer but nou3t spake . & þer-wiþ þei alle be-gunnen to wepe & mi3t not speike for sorowe A litil while aftur comen oþer discipulis one aftur anoþer in þe same manere at þe bigynnyng makinge sorowe & wepinge . But at þe laste whanne þei cessiden of wepinge & begonne to speike of her lorde . Petur seide in þis wise . J am aschamede & *confoundede* in my self & J shulde not be resoun speike in 3oure *presence* or appere in þe si3te of men . for als miche as J lafte so kowardly & forsoke so vntrewly my lorde þat louede me so miche . and in þe same manere alle oþer smyten her handis & so wepinge a-couside & reprehendide hem self þat þei hadde so lafte here lorde . þan oure lady *comfortinge* hem seide . Oure gode maistir & oure trewe herde-man is gone fro vs . & we bene lafte nowe as faderles childerene . But J hope trewly þat we schal sone haue him a3eyne . & 3e knowene wele þat my sone is benigne & merciful blesside mote he be . for he louede 3ow welle & þer-fore dou3teþ not but þat he schal be wille reconcilide to 3o^u . and gladly he schal for3eue alle trespacis & alle offencis . for sopely be sufferance of þe fader þe malice a3ens him was so grete & þe woddenes of his enemys so stronge & mi3ty ; þat 3e my3te not haue socured him þou3 3e hadde abiden stille wiþ him . & þer-fore dredeþ not alle schal be wele . þane answerede petur & seide . sopely as 3e seyne : so it is . for J þat sauh a+litil of þe bygynnyng was wiþ so grete drede .