The myth of ye fader al-mythy
Ye wytt of ye sone al-wyttty
The grace & ye goodnesse: of ye holy gost
On god & lord of mythes most
Be wᵗ hus ath hours by-gennengge
& bryng hus til: a good hendengge
And help hus fully at ye dede
And graunt hus heuene blisse til [houre] heuene mode
By-for ony-theng þt euere was wrougth
Or ony by-gennenge was of outh
And by-for her ony tyme gan pas
The same god yᵗ now is euere he was
Yᵗ woneth in heuene: wᵗ-outen drede
Thre personis in hon godhede
For god wele euere wᵗ ye fader~ & ye sone
And wᵗ ye holy gost in on godhed won
As on god in sbstamnce of dwelenge
Serue wᵗ-outen ony by-gennengge
By-gynnengge of god mythe neuere non be
For he was [euere] on god in trynite
He was euere wyis & ful of wyth
And also as mythy: as he is 3eth
Alle maner myth & wyth: of hym was tane
For neuere no god was but he a-lane
Ye same god <ill><1 word></ill> made al ye by-gynnengge
<fol. 1v>And was ye ferste makere of alle thenge
And thus is god: by-gynhere of alle
And wᵗ-outen by-gynnegge: hus meste hym calle
And hende of alle thengge: w⁴-outen hende
Seker thus yt is holy wryth contende
For as he was first god in y⁶ trinyte
Ryth so is he 3et: & euere-more xal be
And as he first by gan alle thengge
So xal he at y⁶ laste: maken hendenge
Of alle thengge bothe in heuene & helle
Of man of deuel: & of aungelle
And after~ y⁴ lyif: y⁴ xullen lyuen ay
And so xal non qwyk theng but pay
As in thes bok: yt is ful contende
Qwo y⁴ wyl it sen: & heren to y⁶ hende
yat god al-mygthy xal ben yan
As he hes now bothe god & man

God alle thenge w⁴ hes mygth made he
W⁴-otyn hym may no theng be
Alle thenge y¹ he by-gan & wrouthe
Her y¹ he yt made yt was al but noughthe
Alle thenge he ordaynede: w⁴ hes wilt
And al here kendes dyuerse certayn skille

Qwerfore yt wyl it sen: & here
To loue her makere: as y⁶ bok wytnessyth
But in her~ kende: as resoun asketh
For eueryche theng: y¹ god hath wrougth
Y¹ folweth y⁶ kende: & paseth yt nought
Loueth hes makere: & hym worcepeth
Jn y¹ he hys kende: by ryght kepeth
Now sen two creatures: y⁴ skil hauen man
Louen her makere in y⁶ kende: y¹ y¹ han tan
Panne howeth man: y¹ hath bothe skil & mynde
To louen hes creature: in al hes kende
And noughth to ben of worse condicon
Yan y⁶ creatures y¹ ben w⁴-outen resoun~
Seker~ manes kende: is to don godes wille
And hes comamndmentes: to ful-fille
For of al y¹ god made: bothe more & les
Man most pryncipale creature hes
Al y't god made : for man y't was done
As men may heren after-ward sone
God to man-kende : hadde greth loue
Qwan he ordaynde : for manes by-houe
Heuene holly : & al y's werd brade
And mydlerd & yanne man last made
Til hys howen liknesse : in ful fayr stature
<fol. 2v>And also made hym most dyugne creature
By-forn alle othere creatures of kende
And yer-to 3af hym wyth skil & mynde
For to knowyn bothe good & ille
And also 3af hym yer-to : a fre wille
For to chefen : & for to holde
Good other wekke qweder he wolde
Also he ordaynede man for to dwelle
For to lyuen in herthe : w't flech & felle
To knowyn godes werkes : & hym don worchepe
And hes comandmentes : for to kepe
And yf he be to hes god buxhun
To y'e endeles blysses at y'e laste to cum
And yf he in y'e werd : to wrong lyif wende
To y'e peyne of helle : w'-outen hende
But he y't to god . hes lyif wil wele sethe
Gret mede yer-fore he may gethe
And he y't to wikkenesse : sethet hes wil
Schal hauen gret peyne : & y't is skil
Seker y't man is halden for wode
pat taketh y'e wykke & leueth y'e gode
Sen god made man of most dignete
And of alle othere : creatures most fre
And most he hath 3ouen : & 3et 3eues
Yan to alle othere creatures y't lyues
& 3et mechel more he hat by-hygth yer-to
<fol. 3r>Heuene blisse yf y't y't wil do
And 3et qwan we : hadden don al a-misse
And for hur senne : waren priued of y't blisse
God tok manes kende : for houre sake
& for houre lyif hes deth he gan take
And w't hes blod : he brough hus a-gayne
To hes blisse from ye hendeles peyne
Thus greth loue god to man kedde
And manye mo benefices to man he dede
Sekerly ye-fore : yche man lered & lewed
Schulde hy thanke for ye loue by he hath schewed
And hes benefices halden in her mende
Ye grete god thus dede : to manes kende
And louen hym & thanken : as he kan
Trewely elles he is an hun-kende man
And Seruen hes god bothe day & nyght
And yhe hat 3ouen to man vsont in ryght
And spenden hes wythes : in godes seruyse
Witterly elles he ys noughyth wyse
And knowyn kendelyche qwat god isse
And qwat man is hym-self & noughth mysse
To thenken how wikke man is in soule & body
And how greth ye god is & how mythy
And how man greueth god ye doth noughth wil
And qwat man ys worthy : ye doth noug yer-fore to fil
And how mechel merciful & gracious ye god hes
And how large & plenteous of goodnes
And how ryght-wys & how soothfast
And qwat he doth : to man : & xal at ye last
And qwat he doth yche day : to man-kende
This xulde yche man : hym hauen in mende
For by the wy3e : ye lyth to heuene blisse
And yhe ledeth man theder : thes it isse
The way3e of meknesse principaly
Ye is dred & loue to god al-mygthy
For ye may be cald : ye way3e of wisdom
And to ye way3e no [man] may com
W-loute knowenge : of hes god here
Of hes mythes & of hes werkes in fere
But her he may to by knowenge wenne
Hym by-houeth to knowen hym-self w-lenne
Seker elles geteth he no knowenge to cum
To ye by the wy3e : of meknesse & wysdum
Summe hauen wyth : for-to hunderstande
But 3et ye be recheles : & ful on-kunande
And of summe thenges: ye hauen non knowen
e Ye mythe hem steren to meknesse: & good luyenge
Sweche men hadde ne de of lore yche a day
To ben lerned of hem ye kun more yan yai
<fol. 4r> For to knowyn qwat mythe: hem stere & lede
To meknesse & to loue god & drede
Qweche ye is wey3e & ful good wyssenge
Yat to heuene blisse: may men bryngge
Seker in gret peryle of soule is ye man
Ye hath wyit & mende: & no good can~
And wele noughth lere: for to knawe
Ye werkes of god & godes lawe
Ne ben ware of hem-self nother moste ne lest
But euere leuen as an hun-skilful beste
Ye nother hath wyt ne skil ne mende
Seker ye men lyuen a-3enes her~ kende
For a man is noughth excused for on-kunnenge
Yat hes wyettes vseth nought: in lernenenge
Namely of thenges ye hym bi-falleth to knowe
Yee mythe meken hes herte: & maken yt lowe
And he ye kan nought xulde hauen wille
For to leren & knowyn bothe good & ille
And he ye kan sum xulde glaly leren mare
For to knowen ye hym nedful ware
For an hun-kunnenge man: w4 lernenenge
May hym brougth: to ful good hunderstandengge
Of manye thenges to knowen & se
Of thenges ye hath be: & is & xal be
Ye to meknesse mythe steren hys wille
To loue & dred & for to leuen alle ille
<fol. 4v> For manye ye ben ham lykenge: trifeles to heren
and diuere se vanytes: gladlyche wilien leren
and ben ful besy bothe in word & thouth
to leren thenges ye her soule helpeth nought
but ye ware to hem ful nedful to knowe
to heren & leren ye y ben ful slowe
For ye kunnen nought knowen ne se
The grete periles ye y xulden fle
Ne qwych wyey3e ye y xulden taken
Ne qwat wey\^e y\(^i\) xulden : for-saken
y\(^e\)-fore no wonder is : y\(^i\) he gon wrange
For in merknesse of knowenge y\(^i\) gange
And w\(^e\)-outy lyght of hunderstandenge
Of theng y\(^i\) falleth to rygth-ful knowenge
For eueriche cri\(st\) ene man : & womman
yat rygth-ful wyth & resoun hony kan
\(\bar{\theta}\)at y\(^e\) rygth wey\(^3\)e of resoun : kan nougth taken
Ne flen y\(^e\) periles y\(^i\) wyse men for-saken
Schulden ben buxhum : & euere ful besy
To heren & leren wyth : of wise men namely
y\(^i\) hunderstanden & knowyn by skille
Qwat theng is good : & qweche is ille
he y\(^i\) y\(^e\) rythe wey\(^3\)e : of leuenge wele loke
schulde thus by-gennen : as sayth y\(^e\) boke
To knowen ferst qwat hym-self hes
So may he sonest com to y\(^e\) wey\(^3\)e of meknes

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 29r>3et for y\(^i\) grete dred sum rysenge mythe be
and sum hope in her herte : of merci & pite
Qwan y\(^i\) hem by-thouthe : hou heuene so brygthe
y\(^e\) y\(^i\) y\(^i\) xulden dwellen : if y\(^i\) deden rythe
And trewely thus xulde eueriche creatur~ her~ thenken
Jn qwos herte y\(^i\) ony grace mythe senken
And trewely y\(^i\) y\(^i\) welen nougth thenken on thes
Y\(^i\) couaytn for to hauen : non other~ blys
And alle y\(^o\) y\(^i\) thenkyn y\(^e\) werdes lyif so fully goode
Holy wryth telleth y\(^i\) y\(^i\) ben cursede or wode
Or elles it is sygne : & gret susspecounn
y\(^i\) y\(^i\) ben fully in y\(^e\) way\(^3\)e : of dampnacounn
Now hauen 3e herd on diuerse manere
Of thes werd : & y\(^e\) werdes condiconnys in fere
Now may men heren as clerkes can rede
Of y\(^e\) dredful deth : & qwy it is so mechel to drede
Deth is the moste dred y\(^i\) esse
yn al thes werd as bokes beren witnesse
For in thes werd : is no creature lyuande
It is of ye deth euere-more dredande
And feel fle y e deth euere qwyles y i may
But ath y e laste alle we ben y e dethes pray
Bothen strengthe : & bewte : deth wele a-bate
And sone he schaungeth myght in-to pouere a-state
For a-3en deth may no man stonde
Qwer-euere he cometh in ony londe
A-3enes deth qwan he cometh helpi no maner mede
Ther may lordchepe ne lawe : helpen : w i no dede
<fol. 29v>For al y i lyif hath : by-houeth y e deth to fil
And y e-on shulde we thanken ful wil
But by y e name of deth men may tane
Ful hunderstandenge : of mo hi dethes yan ane
For as grete clerkes in dyuere bokes reden
Thre manere of dethes ben . y i men sore drede
y i on is bodili deth : by kende it is nought les
An other is gostly deth : y e thredde : is hendeles
But bodili deth y i is euere ful kendely
Qwan manes soule departeth : from y e body
And trewely y i deth is bothen bitere : & harde
As thes bok y e-of telleth afterwarde
And gostly deth is a departenhe thour senne
by-twyxen manes soule grete god : & manes soule w i-enne
For as y e soule is y e lyif : of yche body
Ryght so y e lyif of iche soule : is god al-mygthy
and ryght as manes body : w i-outeren dowthe
ys fully ded : qwan y i y e soule is houte
Ryght so y e soule of man : is ded al-so
Qwan y i god is departed : for senne y e-fro
For qwer y i senne is : y e is y e deuel of helle
And y e y i y e deuel is : god : wil nought dwelle
For dedly senne y e deuel : & god of scharite
Trewely in on place to-gedere : y i may nought be
For qwan a soule : is wounded w i dedly senne
Good paseth yane hout : & y e deuel cometh henne
Trewely a-for god yanne : y i soule is dede
Qwiles y i dedly senne & y e deuel dwellen in y i stede
Ryght as a manes bodi here : may ben slayne
w i scharpe wepenes : y i man can hordayne
Rygth so is manes soule slaygne: thour senne
And yanne by-houeth god: & y\textsuperscript{1} departen on twenne
Thus is gostly deth to dremen: mechel mare
yan bodily deth: y\textsuperscript{1} no creature wil spare
For as mechel as manes soule namely
ys mechel more worthy: yan ys y\textsuperscript{e} body
For-y\textsuperscript{1} a manes soule: thour~ senne be ded
From y\textsuperscript{e} sythe of god: y\textsuperscript{1} is manes hed
3et may it lyuen a-3en: & w\textsuperscript{1} penaunce ben pynde
And y\textsuperscript{1} bod y\textsuperscript{e}-of take [sorwe] & repentance by kynde
But of bodily deth here: is non 3en-turnenge
For of herthely lyif: it is y\textsuperscript{e} laste hendenge
And y\textsuperscript{e} rythe hentre & y\textsuperscript{e} way3e it hes
To y\textsuperscript{e} io3e or peyne: y\textsuperscript{1} is heboundes
And y\textsuperscript{1} a soule w\textsuperscript{1} senne be slaygne
3et it may thour grace of god qweken a-gayne
And alle y\textsuperscript{e} gostly woundes: y\textsuperscript{1} it hath thour senne
Repentaunce & penaunce: may it hely wit henne
For god is gracious: & so myghty
And so ful of goodnesse & of mercy
To turnen to senful man: euere redye is he
Trewely yan ony man here to hym wil be
For-y\textsuperscript{1} y\textsuperscript{e} bodily deth y\textsuperscript{1} sore wil greuen
hes hordaygned to alle creatures y\textsuperscript{1} here lyuen
The deth of manys soule: god wolde nougth senne
Of non cristene creature: if y\textsuperscript{1} in senne ben
For y\textsuperscript{e} lyif of manes soule: more god payeth
Yan y\textsuperscript{e} deth: & ryght so hym-self sayth

God senful man y\textsuperscript{e} deth: of senful man
But y\textsuperscript{1} he be turned to y\textsuperscript{e} betere: & lyue yan
Thus may senful man: y\textsuperscript{1} her~ soule han slayyne
Ben turnede thour godes grace: & lyuen a.-gayne
But heboundes deth: y\textsuperscript{1} is y\textsuperscript{e} deth of helle
Sekerly y\textsuperscript{1} deth is most bitere: & felle
helle is most halden: an hedous & an orible sted
and it is ful of peynes: & heboundes ded
And ful of brengge deth: y\textsuperscript{1} neuer xal blenne
and non creature: may dey3en: y\textsuperscript{1} is y\textsuperscript{e}-henne

God sayth j. wil nougth y\textsuperscript{e} deth: of senful man
But y\textsuperscript{1} he be turned to y\textsuperscript{e} betere: & lyue yan
Thus may senful man: y\textsuperscript{1} her~ soule han slayyne
Ben turnede thour godes grace: & lyuen a.-gayne
But heboundes deth: y\textsuperscript{1} is y\textsuperscript{e} deth of helle
Sekerly y\textsuperscript{1} deth is most bitere: & felle
helle is most halden: an hedous & an orible sted
and it is ful of peynes: & heboundes ded
And ful of brengge deth: y\textsuperscript{1} neuer xal blenne
and non creature: may dey3en: y\textsuperscript{1} is y\textsuperscript{e}-henne
Yf y\^i mythen deyhen y\(^e\)-hen : as a body here may
Of alle y\(^e\) brengen peynes : dyleyuered y\(^2\) waren y\(^e\)
But y\(^i\) xul felen y\(^e\)-re : manye dethes braye
And euere-more lyuen y\(^e\)-w\(^i\) : as clerkes han sayde
For y\(^e\) deth of helle : is euere more deyhande
And it is a care-ful deth : euere-more leuanede
y\(^e\) deth of helle is nought elles to say
But brennengge paynes & sorwes y\(^i\) lasten ay
P\(^i\) soules schullen felen w\(^i\)-houten hende
Alle y\(^i\) y\(^i\) to y\(^i\) orible place schul wende
And bodily deth here : dreden fully men many
For two dyuerse skillis : most pryncipaly
hon is for y\(^e\) grete peyne : y\(^i\) we hauen in fere
Qwan deth hus a:-sayleth : & fully sleth hus here
and other- is for houre lyif is brough to an hende
And we weten noughth : qwether- we xul wende
Trewely we ben in dowte : & hun-certayne
Qwether- we xul wenden to ioy3e or payne
But how y\(^i\) euere we yanne : schullen fele or fare
<fol. 31r>Trewely y\(^e\) peyne of y\(^e\) deth : is fel & sare
And y\(^e\)-fore . al y\(^i\) of hes deth : haueth ony mende
Ful gretyly dredeth hes deth : by kynde
And so it semeth : as sayth y\(^e\) bok
Y\(^i\) crist hym-self . dede : in y\(^e\) manhed y\(^i\) he tok
For a.-for~ y\(^i\) he schulde dey3en : on y\(^e\) rode
For dred of hes deth : he swatte water & blode
For he wiste her he to his deth schulde pas
Qwat y\(^e\) harde peyne of y\(^e\) deth was
And by othere dyuerse skilles : men may weten ful+wil
Y\(^i\) y\(^e\) peyne of deth is hard to fil
For trewely of deth : many men hauen mechel wonder~
For alle maner of thenges : it bresteth & breketh a-sunder~
And it skulketh a-way : & it stalketh by dyuerse way3es
And y\(^e\)-to ful holy man : thus he say3es
<flat>
The holy man sayth : y\(^i\) deth hendeth alle thenge
And of alle y\(^e\) creatures lyif : he maketh hendenge
And also deth is so sley & so fully preue
y\(^i\) no creature openliche may hym se
And for y't non creature: may hym sen openly
Ye-fore may no man: knowne ne weten fully
Ne no creature may ymagen: qwat deth hes
Ne of qwat schap: ne of qwat lykenes
But qwat y't deth is: ye³ bok: wil 3ow say
Qwa y¹ wele weten: trewelyche he may
Deth is nougth elles to sayn: qwo wile hunderstanden trevely
But a. departenge by-twyn manes soule: & y¹ body
As ye³ bok witnesseth: & clerkes by-forn han sayde
And also a. priuacoun: of iche creatures lyif
Qwan deth departeth: ye³ body & soule in stryif
As man by an exaunple: may knowyn ful wil
Y¹ merkenesse is noughth ful kynde to ful
For in euery place qwer~ no lygth esse
Ther euere-more properliche merkenesse
Rygth so by kende skil: ye³ deth is noughth elles
But a priuenge of lyif as grete clerkes telles
For in qwat lyif creatur~: ye¹ lyif fayleth
Ther is ye³ deth & hym yanne: a-sayleth
Four skilles clerkes fynden ful a.-pertly
Qwy y¹ men xulden dreden: ye³ deth principaly
hon is for y¹ ye³ peyne of deth: is so felle
And so mechel more greuous: yan ony man can telle
And eueryche creature most it felen: w⁴-enne
Qwan y² body & þ³ soule: schulden parten on twenne
An-other skil is for ye⁴ sythes: y¹ y¹ schul sen
Of deuues: y¹ a-bowten hem yanne xul ben
The thredde skil for ye³ grete a.-coutnes y¹ we xul 3elde
Of al houre lyuenge: bothen: in 3ougthe & helde
The ferste skil is: for we ben ful hun-certayne
Qwether we xul wenden: to yo3e or payne
And qwo-so to these foure skilles wil taken hede
he hauthe ful gretyly: ye³ deth sore dred
Ferst we haugthen to dreden ye³ deth in houre herte
For ye⁴ peyne ye⁵-of: is so ouer-bittere & smerte
Ath houre laste schone: qwan we schul make hende