

<County: Hertfordshire>

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<Text: Seven Penitential Psalms>

### <Tranche 1>

<fol. 4v>Here frenchip fond J neuer feynt .

Hem wil J preie as þei ben able .

þ<sup>t</sup> þei wil moue my complaynt .

To god þ<sup>t</sup> Js soo merciable .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

But in þe flod of wateris feele .

To hym schul þei not nei3 nere .

Hem nedip not þ<sup>t</sup> ben in weele .

þe water þ<sup>t</sup> vs . wasschip here .

But we fro hym alday steele .

And greuyn god þ<sup>t</sup> haþ no pere .

We monn not fro him oure lyuuus hele .

But if we wepe watir clere .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

þ<sup>u</sup> art my refute in my woo .

þ<sup>t</sup> haþ enuyronde me abou3t .

My ioie delyuere me fro þoo .

þ<sup>t</sup> me biclippen wiþ-inne & ou3t .

þe feendes fleen to & froo .

To dampne me þus is al my dou3t .

But lord whan J schal hennys goo .

þ<sup>u</sup> kepe me fro þ<sup>t</sup> reuly rou3t .

<lat></lat>

<fol. 5r><lat></lat>

Vndurstandyng J schal þe seende .

And J schal teche þe þer-wiþ al .

And *in* þe weye þ<sup>t</sup> þ<sup>u</sup> schalt wende .  
 On þe myn J3en festyn J schal .  
 J am þi god haue me *in* mynde .  
 J maad þe fre þer þou were þral .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> no dedly synne þe schynde .  
 Late wit & wisdom be þi wal .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Ne fare 3e not as mule & hors .  
 To wiche non vndurstondyng is .  
 For such is folk þat doþ no fors .  
 To lyue in lust and don amys .  
 þenk þi corruptile cors  
 It nys but wormys meyte J-wis .  
 þerfor in myrþe haue þ<sup>u</sup> remors .  
 And euere among þenk on þis .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Jn bernacle and bridel þ<sup>u</sup> constreyn .  
 þe chekis of hem þ<sup>t</sup> seruyn þe nou3t .  
 but *certis* lord but þ<sup>u</sup> refreyn .  
 we moten forfeite in word and þou3t .  
 <fol. 5v>þis world is nou3t but synne & peyn .  
 And wrechidnesse þ<sup>t</sup> synne haþ wrou3t  
 Of my mischef J me *complayne*  
 To þee ihesu þ<sup>t</sup> me hast bou3t .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Many is þe sori betyng .  
 þat to synful scal be-tide .  
 But he þ<sup>t</sup> is in god tristyng .  
 Schal mercy clippe on euery syde .  
 whan wrechis <smudge> hondis schullyn wryng .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> weren so ful of pompe & pride .  
 þan schal þe sauyd song syng .  
 For blisse þ<sup>t</sup> he schal in a-byde .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Jn 3our lord god beþ myrie & glad .

3ee þat of ri3tful hert be .  
 For <sup>[he]</sup> þ<sup>t</sup> was on rood bisprad .  
 Now sittip *in* his faderis see .  
 In li3te of hym schul we be clad .  
 As aungelis þ<sup>t</sup> ben brit of ble .  
 Now iesu *graunte* vs to be ladde .  
 þat we *monn* alle þat si3t see .  
 <fol. 6r><lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Lord blame not me whan þ<sup>u</sup> art wroþ .  
 Vpbreyde me not *in* þyn hastinesse .  
 Pou J haue lyued as þe was loþ .  
 And ben vnkynde a3en kyndnesse .  
 For wantom word & ydel oop .  
 And many werkis of wildenesse .  
 J drede þei dom a3en me goþ .  
 but grace goo w<sup>t</sup> ri3tfulnesse .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 For þyn arewys ben in me pi3t .  
 þ<sup>u</sup> hast sette fast on me þin hond .  
 And J as a+man wiþ-ou3ten mi3t .  
 Am woxen weyke as þe wond .  
 But lo.<sup>[r]</sup>d mayntene þ<sup>u</sup> þi ri3t .  
 Supporte þi man þ<sup>t</sup> can not stonde .  
 And sende *con*nfort to þi kny3t .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> fer is flemyd out of londe .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 For in my fleisch þer is *non* hele .  
 In *presence* of þi worþi face  
 My boonys wantyn pes & wele .  
 For lyues þat þus me deface .  
 <fol. 6v>My wild wil . my wittis freele .  
 Encombren me whaan J+trespace  
 þerfor whan deep schal+wiþ me dele .  
 J se non help but only grace .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>

<ill><1 word></ill> now aboute my<ill><rest of word + 1 word></ill> begrowyn .  
 þe werkis of my wikkidnesse .  
 Vp on me my synne is þrowyn .  
 And as charge of heuynesse .  
 J may me nowhere bestowen .  
 To hide me fro þi hastynesse .  
 But lord take hede J am þin owyn .  
 Late merci reule þi ri3twisnesse .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 My wondis ben al rootyn & rank .  
 Bifor þe face of my folye .  
 For sipþin J first in synne sank .  
 To late J gan for mercy crye .  
 But crist þ<sup>t</sup> quekenyd him þ<sup>t</sup> stank .  
 þe broþer of martha & of marie  
 So brynge me fro þ<sup>t</sup> brery bank .  
 To be in blisse aboute þe skye  
 <lat></lat>  
 <fol. 7r><lat></lat>  
 J wax a <ill><rest of line></ill> .  
 J bowede & carful 3ede al day  
 For mirþe may <ill><ca 3 words></ill> mynde .  
 Whan j þenke on my long way  
 J wot wel J mot hennys wende  
 But wydir & whan can J not say  
 þerfor J bowe & my bak bende .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> god me kepe for he best may .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 For disceites haþ fulfillid my <ill><1 char></ill>yn<ill><1 char></ill>s  
 And in my fleisch is non helpe  
 þerfor of grace late growe greynes  
 þ<sup>t</sup> J may <exp>fle al</exp> fle al fleischly filþe .  
 Late <sup>[neuer]</sup> fend w<sup>t</sup> al his traynes .  
 Stirt vp-on me w<sup>t</sup> no stelþe  
 To festene on me his firy chaynes .  
 For weldyng of þ<sup>i</sup>s worldis welþe .  
 <lat></lat>



<lat></lat>

J was afli3t & ful meke maad  
J rorid for weylyng of myn hert .  
Oure formest frendis a forward breke  
Perfor we ben al woo bigirt .  
<fol. 7v>And þer-to myn synnys eke .  
What wondur þou3 my soule smert .  
þerfor lord god þi mercy J seke .  
for j may not þin honde astirt

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Lord al+my deseir is þe befor .  
Mi weilyng is not fro þe hid .  
For .<sup>[if]</sup> my soule schulde be lorn .  
þan were j wers þan beest or brid .  
þer for ihesu of jewis born .  
God & man on erþe kid .  
Lat neuer þ<sup>t</sup> tresour to be torn .  
þ<sup>t</sup> þ<sup>u</sup> were for so þe wo betid .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Myn hert in me disturblid is  
My vertu haþ fo-saken me .  
Li3t of my þ3en in me non is .  
Me saueriþ synne J can not fle .  
J erre al day & do amys .  
J stomble as þei þ<sup>t</sup> blynd be .  
And synne J woot is cause of þis .  
Mercy lord for þi perte .

<lat></lat>

<fol. 8r><lat></lat>

My nei3boris þ<sup>t</sup> my frendis were .  
Nei3ed and a3en me stode .  
Jn welþ man may wisdom lere .  
Jf he wil reule his wille & mod .  
For þ<sup>e</sup>i+floken euery-where .  
As foules flien aftir here fod  
But a+man deed & brout on bere .  
Ful fele ben feynt & fewe ben good .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

þei stodyn afer þ<sup>t</sup> were me ny3e .  
 þei strengþid hem þ<sup>t</sup> my soule sou3t .  
 þe world is fals þe fend is sli3e .  
 þe fleich dide so þ<sup>t</sup> me for-þou3t .  
 And þerfor to my god j fli3e .  
 w<sup>t</sup> louely herte & hym be sou3t .  
 To 3iue connfort fro heuene an hi3e .  
 To defende þ<sup>t</sup> he haþ wrou3t .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

And þ<sup>t</sup> þo þou3t to do me schape .  
 Spekyn wordis þ<sup>t</sup> weryn weyn .  
 Al þe day boþe late & raþe .  
 þei þou3ten on gile & vp-on trayn .  
 <fol. 8v>But whan þei fedyn mou3t & maþe  
 And brymbles growyn up on her brayn .  
 þan wil þe soþe hym-self onswaþe .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> þei han many a soule slayn .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

But j as deaf no þing herde .  
 And as doumbe man þ<sup>t</sup> haþ no mouþ .  
 Soo sparid j & speche vp sperde .  
 But mede it is to seye a soþ  
 But he þ<sup>t</sup> jewis so foul w<sup>t</sup> ferde .  
 And seiþ hou euery gile goþ .  
 Ful sore wil smyte w<sup>t</sup> his 3erd .  
 But men amende hem þ<sup>t</sup> iuyl doþ .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

j am maad as a+man þ<sup>t</sup> mi3t not here .  
 Ne haþ in mouþ no repreuyng .  
 whan j se synful men make chere .  
 J wend forþ sore si3yng .  
 But lord þ<sup>t</sup> bou3tist us so dere .  
 Lete hem fro blisse no balis bryng .  
 But sende hem mi3t to amende hem here .

And *graunt* hem *grace* of *vprisyng* .

<lat></lat>

<fol. 9r><lat></lat>

Lord for J haue trist in þe .

Mercy my god J schal þe here .

At reuerence <exp>rei</exp> of þ<sup>t</sup> lady fre .

þ<sup>t</sup> 3at þe souke & . <mrg>had .</mrg> no pere .

To þ<sup>t</sup> lady be-take J me .

þ<sup>t</sup> wonyþ aboue þe clowdis clere

wil sche is soo ny3 þi kne .

j hope to spede of my preyere .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

So J <exp>am</exp> haue seid lord *merciabl*

Late not on me my foes be glad .

And whil j stire my foot vnstable .

þei vp-on me gret wordes mad .

but lord þ<sup>t</sup> art so *con*nfortable .

þ<sup>u</sup> make here flowris to falle & fade .

& . <mrg>þe .</mrg> to plese þou make me able .

For in syne wil J no lenger wade .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

For J am redy to be bete

Mi sorwe is euere in my si3t .

To don his wille J good lete .

A3ens my lor will j not fi3t .

<fol. 9v>Now lord þ<sup>t</sup> woldist þi blod blede .

On olyue monnt whan it was ni3t .

So sende me grace . for to wepe .

Such watir as may myn hert li3t .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

For J my wikednesse wole telle ou3t .

And on my synnes þenke j schal .

How *perlous* it is to be proud .

And lecherie may lese al .

Enuye . wrappe & hert stou3t .

Schal stonde a+man but litil stal .

whan he is clopen in a+clou3t  
 To wone w<sup>t</sup>-inne a+wormys wal .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Myn enemyes boþe quyk & bold .  
 Aren strengþed aboue me mi3tily .  
 Þei beþ encresid many fold .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> han me haten wrongfully .  
 wole J now folowe vn-to his fold .  
 And do his biddying buxumly .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <fol. 10r><lat></lat>  
 þoo þ<sup>t</sup> for good dede wil chide & fli3te .  
 Bacbitedyn me to vnwittily .  
 For j sou3t goodnes þou3 j dide lite .  
 To queme þe lord god almi3ty .  
 For he doþ alle werkis write .  
 To shewe þ<sup>t</sup> al þe world schal see .  
 & how scharply he schal hem smyte .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> woldyn . <mrg>not</mrg> here her synnys fle .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 My lord my god forsake me nou3t .  
 And departe me neuere fro .  
 Holde þin hous þ<sup>t</sup> þ<sup>u</sup> hast wrou3t .  
 Fo-sake not lord my sowle so  
 It is þi bour þ<sup>u</sup> hast it bou3t .  
 Elynge it is whan þ<sup>u</sup> art go .  
 þerfor ihesu lat neuere no þou3t .  
 Ne worde ne dede part vs a+two .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 To myn helpyng take þ<sup>u</sup> hed .  
 My lord my god of al myn helpe .  
 Be not to fer whan J haue ned .  
 And wisse þ<sup>u</sup> me in woo & welþe .



## <Tranche 2>

<fol. 14v>Bi tribulaconn þ<sup>t</sup> þan schal ryse .

þe chirche schal be maad ful cler .

But sore monn þin enemyes gryse .

þ<sup>t</sup> puttyn hem-silf in gret dannger

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Lord þ<sup>u</sup> herkyn to my preyer .

And vnto þe lat come my cry .

vouchesaf to herkene & here .

My mone J make to mekely .

To cry on þe wiþ careful chere .

þer nedip non so mykel as J .

þerfor my steuyn strengþe & stere .

þ<sup>t</sup> J ne speke vnskilfully

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Turne not away fro me þe face .

Bowe down þin here whan me is wo .

Late growe in me uertues of grace .

þ<sup>t</sup> quenchip synne & peyn also .

In weye of charite þou me chase .

þe feip lat me not falle fro .

And teche me þ<sup>t</sup> J ne trespass .

For hope of mercy neuere þe mo .

<lat></lat>

<fol. 15r><lat></lat>

In waht day þ<sup>t</sup> J euyr þe calle .

Blisful lord þou listene me .

For ri3tful ben þi werkis alle .

But mercy is þi propirte .

þerfor if J by freelnesse falle .

In synnys fro wich þ<sup>t</sup> schulde fle .

Ne put me no3t out of þin halle .

But teche me to turne a3en to þe .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

For my dayes is lik þe smoke .

þ<sup>t</sup> knewe j not now haue j leryd .  
 My bonys ben drye & al þoru soke .  
 Lijk aþþing þ<sup>t</sup> is forfryid .  
 wel mi3t *crist* þ<sup>i</sup>s word aspoke .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> on þe cros was don & dried  
 For whan his blessid brest was broke .  
 For drou3t & þirst lowde he cryed .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Smytyn j was lijk gres & hap .  
 Myn hert welewid & wax deed .  
 For J for-þ3at bi what way .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> J schulde hete myn owne bred .  
 <fol. 15v>To payne me was al her <ill><1 word></ill><smudge> .  
 þei þristyn þornys into myn heed .  
 Dispitously speddyn þei .  
 wiþ blod to make my body reed .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Fro þe voys of my weylyng .  
 Vnto my fleisch my bon can schrynk .  
 J sau3 my cosyn Jon mornyng .  
 And my <sup>[m]</sup>odir in swounyng synk .  
 þo þ<sup>t</sup> were þere me scorgyng .  
 Galle & eysel þe 3aue me drynk .  
 J wepte as child of 3eris 3yng .  
 On þis mischef whan J gan þenk  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 J was mad lijk þe pellycan .  
 Jn wildernesse þ<sup>t</sup> hym-self sleþ .  
 So redyly to rode J ran  
 For mannys sowle to suffere dep .  
 And as þe ni3t crowe in her+hous can .  
 Be ni3t see to holde an heep .  
 So saueryd J to saue man .  
 Ful blissid was þ<sup>t</sup> ilke breþ .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <fol. 16r><lat></lat>

J wook & was mad lijk a+sparwe .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> in þe roof of solitarie .  
 On rood tre my nest was narwe .  
 þennys mi3t J no bryiddis carye .  
 As erþe is hurlid vndur harwe .  
 So was þe fleisch þ<sup>t</sup> sprong of marie .  
 Jn world is non soo scharp an arwe .  
 As weryn þe peynes þ<sup>t</sup> me gan tarie .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Al day þei dryuen me to scorn .  
 Men þ<sup>t</sup> myn enemyes weren .  
 And þei þ<sup>t</sup> preysedyn me foryn .  
 Aftir-ward a3eyn me sweryn  
 þan was J tuggyd & to-torn .  
 Feet hond i3en mouþ & eryn .  
 Til euery lyme had lif forlorn .  
 þe turmentoures vp on me teryn .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 for askis as it were bred J 3eet .  
 w<sup>t</sup> wepyng j mengid my dring among .  
 For loue of man me þou3t it sweet .  
 To suffer sorwe & stormys strong .  
 <fol. 16v>And siþ adam þe lawe for-lete .  
 þoru here þ<sup>t</sup> of his oo rib sprong .  
 was neuere man to mercy mete .  
 Til j hadde sufferid wo & wrong .  
 <lat></lat>  
 <lat></lat>  
 Aforþ þe face of þi greuance .  
 þ<sup>u</sup> drow me donn w<sup>t</sup> vpliftyng .  
 Fadir j was to þi plesance .  
 Lift vp as god in god duellyng .  
 For <sup>[to]</sup> stynte al sturbelance .  
 Of man þ<sup>t</sup> synnyd & not ceesyng .  
 þou dryue <sup>[me]</sup> donn to chese þ<sup>t</sup> chance .  
 As man for man his deþ takyng .  
 <lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

My dayes passid as schadow of li3t .

J welwid as doþ . <mrg>þe</mrg> grene gras .

J went as man w<sup>t</sup>-outyn mi3t .

wer euery trad was bloody tras .

whan J þus delfully was J-di3t .

þ<sup>t</sup> neuere dide no trespass .

Centurio seid we don vnri3t .

For trewly goddis sone þ<sup>i</sup>s was .

<lat></lat>

<fol. 17r><lat></lat>

But certis lord þ<sup>u</sup> duelli3st euere .

þi mynde abydiþ in euery kynde .

For þe godhed anyed was neuere .

þer was no schour þ<sup>t</sup> my3t it shynde .

þ<sup>il</sup><exp>ei</exp> manhed mi3t þir men disseuere .

þer of þe<add>i</add> madyn a reuful ende .

þer-for ich man is þe leuere .

þat þis matir weel haþ in mynde .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

þ<sup>u</sup> schalt vp rise on syon rewe .

For time is come of here mersy

Syon is holy chirche trewe .

Of men þ<sup>t</sup> lyuen cristenly

A stedefast seed on it þ<sup>u</sup> sewe .

And tau3tist her ful tendirly .

How þ<sup>t</sup> she schulde synne eschewe .

And loue þe most entirly .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

For stonys of syon þi seruannt likid .

And on her gronnde shal haue pite .

Crist cornerston . xij . stonys pikid .

His . xij . apostelis for to be . .

<fol. 17v>On hem xij . is a+donngeomn dikid .

þoru feiþ þ<sup>t</sup> we in syon see .

þ<sup>t</sup> who so be wiþ synne entrikid .

May sauely to þ<sup>t</sup> strengþe fle .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

And alle men schullen þi name drede .  
 Alle erpely kynkis dou3tyn þi blisse .  
 þ<sup>u</sup> reuist *princes* of here pryde .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> wikkidly her wittis wille .  
 Ri3t as þe list men maist þ<sup>u</sup> lede .  
 Saue & sle & langur lisse .  
 So woo is hym þ<sup>t</sup> doþ a+dede .  
 wher-for he mot þi merci mysse .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

For god haþ biggid vpon syon .  
 Jn blisse he schal be seen & knowyn .  
 whan holi chirche schal be mad on .  
 Jn heuen as we tristen & knowyn .  
 þan schul alle oure gostly foon .  
 Into þe fire be þristen & þrowyn .  
 & we schullen into gladnesse gon .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> now on gronnde in *grace* growyn .

<lat></lat>

<fol. 18r><lat></lat>

þe orisonn of þe meke he si3e .  
 And not dispiseþ her+preyere .  
 But hem þ<sup>t</sup> ben of hert hi3e .  
 Heriþ he not in no manere .  
 At hym þ<sup>t</sup> al vices flei3 .  
 Crist ihesu lord ech man may lere .  
 For he to non astat vp stye .  
 But euere lowe in word & chere .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Jn anoþer kynrede lat þ<sup>i</sup>s be wryten .  
 þan schal preyse god þ<sup>t</sup> peple vnbore .  
 For þei monn þeise wordis wyten .  
 þan schulle þei þankyn god þerfore .  
 þ<sup>t</sup> was for hem so falsly flyten .  
 w<sup>t</sup> peynful *turmentis* al tor-tore .  
 For mannys sake soo sore smytyn



was neuere non siþ ne bifore .

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

For he sau3 from his holy hei3t

To erþe oure lor<sup>[d]</sup> seiþ ou3t of heuen .

He sau3 man walke vndur þe wei3t .

Of alle þe dedly synnes seuen .