



<County: Essex>

<Code: L6290>

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<Text: Long Charter of Christ>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 124ra>jhesu kyng of heuene & helle  
man & woman j 3ow telle  
What loue j haue do for ye  
loke what yu hauyst do for me  
from ioye yey me vt pelte  
wyth tresoun & wyth-vtyn gelte  
Pore & naked yey dr~fyn me away  
as a best y<sup>t</sup> gayt in stray  
Fro my ryche y ca@ a-doun  
To sekyn y<sup>e</sup> fro tou@ to tou@  
Myn heritage y<sup>t</sup> is so fre  
jn yi meschef to 3euy<sup>n</sup> it y<sup>e</sup>  
Wan <sup>[y<sup>t</sup>]</sup> j yis 3yfte 3eue schuld  
j dede ryth os ye laue wold  
Til a meydyn~ j hordayn me  
For yer schuld no chaleyng be  
Ful worthely 3e kepte both y<sup>e</sup> & me  
Till y<sup>t</sup> j my tym wold se  
xl wockys & xl dawys  
For to full-fyllyn ye rythe lawys  
ye maydyn was trwe myld & fre  
Sche resceuyd both ye & me  
yore yi~ manhot & my grace  
yus cam yis sesyn fyrst in~ place  
or yan yis sesyn was fully do  
Full grete enuye had yan my foo  
Belsebuk & satanas  
yay had grete wondyr what y<sup>t</sup> it was



harde yay thrette@ me in~ her thoght  
y<sup>t</sup> yis sesyn schul der by boght  
He sent his *seruantes* wyth enuye  
wyth sorow & wo me for to destrye  
Wel 3e fundyn hym geyned noght  
an hoyer thyng was in~ my thoght  
wel mor sykyr ye to make  
agayns yi~ fo full of wrake  
heuene & herth in~ present  
To make a charter of feoffament  
jn swyche a maner be . how it to be  
y<sup>t</sup> j most 3euyn my lyf for ye  
<fol. 124rb>For y<sup>u</sup> art dede & j am lyf  
j most deyn to 3euyn lyf  
harde gatys he hauyt gou@  
jn hungur & thyrst & many wou@  
xxx wynter & mo yan two  
or yan yis charter wer fully do  
Cowde y<sup>e</sup> fyndyn@ no parchemyn  
y<sup>t</sup> wold lastyn wyth-vtyn fyn~  
But as gret loue bad me do  
myn houene skyne j toke yer-to  
vp on a thursday . a . soper~ j . made  
frend & fo to makyn all glade  
Wyth metys & drynkys sowle fode  
with holy word my flesch . & my blode  
all yis j dyde for mankynd  
my loue dedys to haue@ in mynd  
To scheue 3ow all my loue dede  
my . self . will j yis charter rede  
3e man & woman . y<sup>t</sup> goyt be y<sup>e</sup> way  
abidis & loke vp with 3owr ey  
Redyn . vpon .yis parchemyn~  
3yf any . sorow likith to myn~  
with-standyt & hereyt yis charter rede  
how j am for-wondid & all for-blede  
y wetyd 3e y<sup>t</sup> beth & schul be tydyn  
y<sup>t</sup> j ihesu crist wyth blody sydyn  
y<sup>t</sup> was born~ in~ bedlem

& offerid vp in~ to ierusalem  
 ye kyngys son@ he y<sup>e</sup> a-boue  
 with my faderys wil & loue  
 j made a sesyn wan j was born@  
 To y<sup>e</sup> mankynd y<sup>t</sup> was forlorn@  
 with my charter her in~ present  
 j made to ye a confyrment  
 y<sup>t</sup> j *graunte* & j 3eue  
 To ye mankynd wyth me to+leue  
 jn my regne of heuene blys  
 To hauyn~ & holdyn@ with-vtyn mys  
 jn a condicon@ y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> be kynd  
 my loue dedys y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> haue in~ mynde  
 <fol. 124va>For to hauyn & . for . to holdy@  
 wyth all *pertinance* for to woldy@  
 myn heritage y<sup>t</sup> is so . fre  
 for . homage . ne . for feute  
 But . no . more wil j askyn of ye  
 But a iiij leued gras y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> *grante* me  
 y<sup>t</sup> on it is sothfastly schryfte  
 y<sup>t</sup> other it is *senne* haue sorow  
 ye iiij it is y<sup>t</sup> i nyl no mor do so  
 ye iiij it is dred god & loue hym euer mo  
 when yes iiij leues to gedir~ *ben* schete  
 a trwloue yan man clepyt hyt  
 yer-for pay yi~ rent be nawht be-hyndyn~  
 for prow ye 3er y<sup>u</sup> myth *grace* fyndyn@  
 yan mayst y<sup>u</sup> wel se@ in~ my wonde  
 y<sup>t</sup> yar may trwloue be@ j-funde  
 yoth y<sup>u</sup> fall & gretly mys-take  
 my loue dedys sall j *neuer* forsake  
 3yf y<sup>u</sup> y<sup>e</sup> amend & *mercy* craue  
 yin heritage sall y<sup>u</sup> haue  
 yes selys y<sup>t</sup> yis charter wer~ selyd witht  
 yai werym~ wroght vp on a styf  
 of gold ne of siluer wer yai~ nath  
 But of stel & heryn yai~ wroght  
 wyth sper~ of stel j was stongyn~  
 yrow myn hert lyuer & longyn@



heryn~ neyles yer leden me  
Thorgh fot & handys *yer* till a tre  
ye selyng wex was der~ a-bowth  
yrow my hert rot it sowth  
y<sup>t</sup> was tempered all wyth wermylion~  
yat was myn hert blod y<sup>t</sup> ran <sup>[a]</sup>don~  
v sely wer set *yer* vp-on@  
of fadyr & son@ god & man~  
ye v is to be-leue most  
y<sup>t</sup> he cam of y<sup>t</sup> holy gost  
jn pleyn power for to makyn@  
a corone of myn hed j takyn@  
Of thornis i~ tokynyng y<sup>t</sup> j kyng  
& frely may 3eue y<sup>e</sup> my thynges  
yis wytnessit ye ieusys all  
<fol. 124vb>vp-on her knys yay can don~ fall  
Ful loude ye *criden*~ in~ her scornyn~  
heil be y<sup>u</sup> lorde & ieusys kyng~  
Be-twen two men . yis dede was selyd  
Boye wer sek y<sup>t</sup> on was heylyd  
Be-twen two ieusys he ye pyth  
jn tokenyng y<sup>t</sup> j am man of myth  
norw & west on he ye helle  
y<sup>t</sup> j may demyn boye goode & ylle  
a prost j was & sor swynkyn@  
yis benerache most nedys be dronkyn@  
a loue drynk j asked of ye  
heysell & galle y<sup>u</sup> 3eue yt me  
yis wytnessyt mathi & jon@  
luk & mark & many on@  
Namelech my modyr suete  
for sche left neuer terys to lete  
Or yis charter wrytyn~ was  
ful oftyn sche seyde allas allas  
so bar y<sup>t</sup> was of wordys goode  
wan y<sup>t</sup> j schuld deyn vp-on ye rode  
y<sup>t</sup> j ne hade werof to takyn  
My testament for to makyn~  
But of my leue modyr der~

Sche stod be me wyth sory cher~  
 Wan y<sup>t</sup> j my cosyn her~ be-tok  
 Sche cast vp-on me many rewfyl look  
 jn knouelachyng y mad a cry  
 pater lamabazatany  
 Be-hold man wyth hert & eye  
 For yi <gap> how j schall deye  
 yis charter is don@  
 Man y<sup>u</sup> hast ouer-comyn yin~ foyn~  
 To helle j went yis charter to scheuy~  
 be-for yi~ fon@ satan y<sup>e</sup> schreue  
 y<sup>t</sup> he was cast & broght to grund  
 wyth neyls bore & sperys wond  
 a+scryth of a couenaunt mad yer was  
 Be-twexyn me & satanas  
 able myn to hauyn a-way  
 y<sup>t</sup> he me be-reft wyth fals pray  
 <fol. 125ra>a-3an y come & made a fest  
 a monges all men most & lest  
 A party .yo men gunyn knoue me  
 y<sup>t</sup> j was man of grete powste  
 y<sup>e</sup> fest last xl dawys  
 To don@ men knawyn my ryth lawys  
 ye fyrst it is of ioie & blys  
 y<sup>t</sup> hesterne day clepyd is .  
 hou endenture y lefte with ye  
 y<sup>t</sup> ouer al y<sup>u</sup> schuldys syker be  
 jn prestys hand my flesche & eke my blode  
 y<sup>t</sup> for ye deyde vp-on y<sup>t</sup> rod  
 on bycaye i tok ye also  
 ye rode y<sup>t</sup> i was vp-on y-do  
 To beryn~ wyth ye wer y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> go  
 yanne darst y<sup>u</sup> darst y<sup>u</sup> nere dreydyn yi fo  
 For to my fadir j most go  
 all is wyl j aue do .  
 On haly rostday j vndyr~ stond  
 y went vp on my fadyrs reth hond  
 To deme ye qwyk & eke y<sup>e</sup> deyd  
 al myn to schyldyn fro ye qued

a wit-sonday werement  
 a don j sent wyth goode talent  
 Wit & wysdame to all mankynde  
 all men to schelden@ fro y<sup>e</sup> fende  
 a cote armowr j . bar w<sup>t</sup> me  
 for y<sup>t</sup> j tok of yin lyuere  
 ye cloth was ryche god & fyn~  
 ye chomp it was oft whyt camelyn~  
 wel fair~ mayden to me it wroght  
 vt of her~ bour~ he me it broght  
 jt was pouderyde w<sup>t</sup> v rose rede  
 y<sup>t</sup> wer~ ye wondys y<sup>t</sup> j for man sufferyd<sub>ded</sub>  
 wen j come hest a-3ayn to ye  
 yer-by mayst y<sup>u</sup> wel knoue me  
 all yo y<sup>t</sup> be of rente be-hyndyn  
 & my loue dedys haue noght in mynde  
 <fol. 125rb>Ful sor mon yay ben adrad  
 wen yis charter schall be red  
 all yey schull til helle peyne  
 wyth me to blis schull gon@ all myne  
 yerfor pay yi~ rent be nath be-hynde  
 yrow y<sup>e</sup> 3er y<sup>u</sup> myth grace fynde  
 Pay yi dettys & kep y<sup>e</sup> fro gylte  
 & come & chalange wen y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> wylte  
 y<sup>t</sup> blesse y<sup>t</sup> lese vr form frend  
 Cryst it vs grante with-vtyn ende  
 y<sup>t</sup> is to seyn y<sup>e</sup> blysse of heuyn  
 amen for is <ill>names<?></ill> seuyn  
 <lat>explicit carta domini nostri ihesu cristi@</lat>  
 Alle 3e mowyn be blyth & glade  
 yis is ye day y<sup>t</sup> god made  
 tille we mowyn be blyth & glade  
 jn blysse for to bydyn  
 For god restyd as clerkys rede  
 y-set be-twen 3owr~ sydyn~  
 y<sup>e</sup> hauyn etyn a flesch y<sup>t</sup> may noght fade  
 no from 3owr~ gostis glydyn~  
 yis is ye day y<sup>t</sup> god made  
 yis flesch in man til hydyn~

jhesuc on don~ a deyde  
 crewly he was rent vp on~ a rod tre  
 Fyrst he made hys mande  
 hys body in~ bred blyssyd y<sup>u</sup> be  
 we hauyn~ take yt in~ good tyde  
 jhesuc brak bred & schar~ no schewe  
 y<sup>e</sup> red wyn~ in pece ran~  
 My flesch my blode j 3ow 3eue  
 To hys disciplys yan~  
 Etyt & drynkyt 3e schul leuyn~  
 3owr sowl is sauyl fro satan~  
 ye yerck deuyl a don~ is dryuyn~  
 yrow y<sup>e</sup> craft yis mete can  
 yus yis fest vr wel wan~  
 jn masse ys blode be reson~  
 jn hosyl is no dyuysyon~  
 jn blyssyd bred in pardon~  
 we hauyn taken verrey god & man~  
 <fol. 125va>y ryth good gost may be ful glade  
 To se what seynt mathu wyl seyn~  
 y<sup>e</sup> bred of lyf fro heuene be spad  
 yn-tyll a maydyn he toke y<sup>e</sup> wey  
 yn a cake ye kyng ys clad  
 chastly closyd wyth kynges keye  
 Ete blyssyd bred of godys bord  
 Yan schall y<sup>u</sup> leuyn & neuer more dye  
 lappyd in~ lofys beye  
 Ete blyssyd bred of godys bord  
 & be trust & true in godys word  
 yan schall y<sup>u</sup> be froyt of heuene hord  
 wyth yi prynce to pleye  
 God made man & lord of lyf  
 Man drew hym self to lyuyn~ in dred  
 yrow ye wordys of hys wyf  
 & quente ys of ye quelly qued  
 an angel-ys dent adam gan dryf  
 ye blyssful blisse y<sup>t</sup> hym for-bed  
 Till godys son~ y-starfe wyth stryf  
 Fyrst he made hys body in forme of bred

y-rent he was ful red  
 wyth spyth he was spattelyd & spurnyd  
 & yn red blode hys body was borlyd  
 hys deth hur deth hauyt turnyd  
 from ye dale of dred  
 as j answerd & seyde yus  
 & spake in godys name  
 y<sup>t</sup> my deth schall sclen deth y-wys  
 deth of helle schame  
 my deth sall drauyn man to blys  
 from ye deth of blame  
 deth y<sup>u</sup> sclowe man a-mys  
 ye deth schall lygyn ful lame  
 mary ye swete dame  
 Of yi child spekyt ye profecye  
 he schall be mossel of mercye  
 to cheken helle hungrye  
 y<sup>t</sup> gnowe gostys is wyth grame

### <Tranche 2>

<fol. 126rb>ye bred hauyt now no per~  
 yt is contynance of kneden~ flurwr  
 godys body is in bowr  
 wyth herbys & spycys of pamowr~  
 jn cryst is closyd yer~  
 y<sup>t</sup> holy leche ye sek hawyt fete  
 & leyde plastys to many sor  
 feferows drynkys hym forbete  
 & gotows metys myne & mor  
 3yf sekmen tak yt y<sup>t</sup> he forbet  
 ys stat restoryt of no sor  
 ye same sese no god hauyt set  
 hys senne . grow & gostlych gor  
 God restyd naw yor  
 fra@ hym passyt ye gostlyche fode  
 he may wonyn no fennys hode  
 For senne sentete to neuell flode





ouer holeys heye & hor  
Man fle folye & ful fondyng~  
agayn glotonye fra@ yis gost  
Take louesse & loue lykyng~  
& put vt pryd & wrayis bost  
For godys loue 3eue of yi ying  
for charite & mercy most  
Man be chast os chyld so yhyng~  
fro slowye y<sup>u</sup> kneuele in chergys gost  
Be-seke y<sup>t</sup> holy gost  
y<sup>t</sup> blyssyt is w<sup>t</sup> crystys feste  
schall louyn bucsom~ in yi breste  
yan schall yi saul syt ihesu neste  
yer merthe is makyd most  
a+leche foluyt a lordys wyll  
Ful litill he leuyyt hys lyf to y<sup>e</sup> hend  
all hys truste he teynt hym till  
& 3eue hym robys ryche & hende  
to louyn hur leche we haue gret skyll  
soulys salue he wyll hus sende  
vp-on y<sup>t</sup> leche no loue may spill  
he 3euyt hus lyf w<sup>t</sup>-vtyn ende  
<fol. 126va>man haue yis in~ mynd  
Of yi salue yi~ leche hat sent  
he askyt but yi~ gestys garnement  
3yf hym y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>t</sup> good entent  
& yen is he yi ful frende  
yis prechyt .<sup>[ye]</sup> postel jon  
an holy man & wyssyt y<sup>e</sup>  
mak y<sup>e</sup> frend man of all yi fon~  
& vp-on ye pore .y<sup>u</sup> haue petye  
Trewe turtele of heuene trone  
he cheste ys chomber yn charyte  
jn charite lyuyst y<sup>u</sup> nawh a-lon~  
y<sup>u</sup> lyuyst in~ god & he in~ ye  
y<sup>u</sup> mayst no bryther~ be  
wan yis saule is set from sennys dym  
God is in~ ye & y<sup>u</sup> in hym  
wen yis body is beryd vndyrbrym~

yi gost yi god sall se  
 Fugur j fynd bryd beste  
 To honowr cryst is myn houtowr  
 Of ihesuc is yis gentyl geste  
 Of speciall loue wol paranowr~  
 Fugur~ is fallyn to yis feste  
 yis song hauyt reth a swete sauowr~  
 To saluyn all hur synnys sorw  
 Cryst was clenchyd vp on a cruche  
 hys brest it bar~ a bloody nowche  
 Of a fair~ <gap> wyl j towche  
 of maryes fleschly flowr~  
 Fugur j fynd in ye hold laue  
 as holy wyl soyely say  
 wyth-vtyn spud a . lomb wa . slaen  
 & deth to her mete . a+paskene day  
 Fayr in reste . & . all . be . laue  
 at yat feste of good . aray  
 no bon@ was . brokenne . ne sondyr draue  
 yis was ye laue of ye holde lay  
 Plesant to godys pay  
 y<sup>e</sup> dorys & y<sup>e</sup> postylez of ye temple stod  
 <fol. 126vb>an-vntyd yey weryn wyth lombys blod  
 y<sup>e</sup> fugur of y<sup>t</sup> lomb was good  
 y<sup>t</sup> boryn was of a may  
 wyth-vtyn spud y<sup>t</sup> lomb was begunnyn  
 yer hym greuyn neuere sennys gray  
 hys flesch was rostyde a3ans y<sup>e</sup> sone  
 To fedyn spyrytys wyth plesant pay  
 y<sup>e</sup> rythful blod of croys be romnyn~  
 no bon@ was broken wan cryst gan dey  
 hur temple postelys hur strenye hat wone  
 To stondyn styfly in~ good fey  
 ye fend is fled away  
 of mannys soule he is dissonyd  
 y<sup>e</sup> false lodder~ is de-louyd<?>  
 ye lombe of loue vs hauyt an-onyd  
 wyth is blod he gan vs to beye  
 Cryst is clepyd a vnner~

To saue man soule don~ wer~ he sent  
 red blod hys body gan ber~  
 jt was to man a ryche *present*  
 hys whyte fleche he lot it schere  
 vt *yan* ran a red vnnemente  
 To makenne vs stef we schul not ster~  
 fro mythful god omnipotent  
 hys flesch was rwly rent  
 an vnnement *yer* ran vt red  
 y<sup>t</sup> now is blod in~ whyte bred  
 yrow sothfast sacrament  
 of ye hold laue takyt kepe  
 ye sowtyn a soft of surgerye  
 3yf y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> to hym *murnyng* make  
 To wyrchyn myschyf of meselrye  
 yey tokyn two sparwys y<sup>t</sup> on~ hym bled  
 y<sup>t</sup> on bryd was slayne ful sclye  
 wyth y<sup>e</sup> sparuis blode he was a-vnted  
 ye queke fley in~ to y<sup>e</sup> skye  
 Man in maladye  
 wyth sparus blod he was a-vnte  
 ye fel ye fyl fra@ euery ioynt  
 j-likenyd to ye same poynt  
 y<sup>e</sup> sone of maydyn marye  
 <fol. 127ra>jn <helle pyn?> we lay for-loryn~  
 hur forme fadyr~ senne  
 Tyll y<sup>t</sup> two byrdys in on was boryn~  
 manhot wyth-vtyn~ & god with-ynney@  
 wen crystys flesch on crose was toryn~  
 y<sup>e</sup> twenne bryddys weryn set a-twynne  
 y<sup>e</sup> soule fleye y<sup>e</sup> fadyr~ be-foryn  
 y<sup>e</sup> body was broght in~ beryng lynne  
 cryst *preued* to man-kenne  
 y<sup>e</sup> holy blod for ay  
 y<sup>e</sup> soule ca@ a3ayn j say  
 & bare bloody body an holi day  
 in to heuyn far w<sup>t</sup>-inne  
 Godys gost is yis fol in flyght  
 y<sup>t</sup> saly soule to setten~ from senne

yis halle of som to rekyn~ a ryth  
 Godys gost restyd yer-ynne  
 ye prest leyt bryd in bryddys syth  
 From car to kepynne alle ma@-kenne  
 ye prest of bryd mak body bryth  
 white wyth-vtyn & red wyth-inne  
 yis body in bred wyth wynyne  
 wyth prestys wys yis bred hauyt spokyn  
 wen body & bred to-gedyr is lokyn~  
 wen bloody body in bred is brokyn~  
 hur *grace* her name is kyde  
 yis forme foule frykest in flyght  
 She bryngys til her byrdys bed  
 der~ metys y-draue fro <ill><c. 2 words, rubbed></ill>  
 To flesch & blod it *turnyt* all  
 ye blod botyd ye bryd fro@ seke  
 wyll more wondyr~ god hauyt hed  
 y<sup>t</sup> is ouene body is bred lyke  
 Godys body is hed  
 jn a cake y-bakenne fresche  
 Godys body is blod & flesche  
 hys gost may *turnyn* herd to nesche  
 <fol. 127rb>& blessyd be y<sup>t</sup> bryd  
 yis bryd y<sup>t</sup> *ihesuc* lythte be jon~  
 wan cryst was flumyd im flom~  
 y<sup>e</sup> bryd of bred he makyd bon@  
 Flesch & blod he 3eu<sup>t</sup> vs som~  
 Fra@ wedire & wrafye<?> yis bryd wyll gon~  
 he draw<sup>t</sup> from 3owr saulys dom~  
 But leuyt in~ loue euerychon~  
 yn how he chest hys chombyr~ rom~  
 Tyll clay closyd in~ clom  
 Crodyd yis bryd all in~ 3owr bryste  
 in mannys sowl he chest hys neste  
 To yis word haue y<sup>u</sup> no treste  
 yis lyf lastys but a mom~  
 trw *turtil* in *trinite*  
 ne make y<sup>i</sup> gost hur gostly make  
 jn ful feyth to fulwyn y<sup>e</sup> hur sory sennys to [for-sakyn~]



Swet bryd in~ brydys alle  
you comyst in~ contynance of a cake  
owr saly angyl yi body wold se  
y<sup>t</sup> syt in howr bred i~ bake  
wer we slepe or wake  
jn yi brest y<sup>u</sup> brodys bryd  
& lokkyn hym in~ yi lowys lyde  
y<sup>t</sup> holy hert he wyll hem hyde  
y<sup>t</sup> we trwly han j-take  
ye bred of lyf fra@ heuene he delte  
& mad hys body in bred to ben~  
Flesch y-hatte & bred j-felte