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<Tranche 1>

<fol. 2va>For that ille that we do ilke day

We may say thus to put it a-wey

<lat></lat>

In thys we aske ryght abstinence

Of all ille that fyleth owre concyence

Zyt ar ther other askynges thre

For all kyn good that may be

<lat></lat>

For all maner good . other bodyly es

Or gostely good . or good endeles

For bodyly good here to haue

Oure substa<?>ence thus we craue

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

In thys we aske strengthe and myght

For susteyne owre lyf ryght

For goostly good here to sterve vs

To love god we say thus

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

In thys we aske nyght and day

Stedfast wyllle god to serue ay

For god to haue w^t-owten ende

We say thus wer~ so we wende

<lat><3 lines></lat>

In thys the blys off heuen we craue

And grace to be worthy it to haue

For <ill><2 letters crossed out></ill> festenyng~ off owre hertes to stande



Jn god we say thus prayande
<lat></lat>
Jn thys we aske wylle stedefast
Wyth-owten~ fayllyng~ in good to last
Suche maner off prayers ben~
Jn thys holy prayer sen~
<lat></lat>
<lat></lat>
¶ But thys prayer begynneth ryght
Wyth foure wordes off grete myght
On whych at the begynnyng~ hynge
All the spede off the seuen~ askynges
<fol. 2vb>Thowe the . iiij . wordes we may fele
Jff we vnderstande hym wele
How we schall rewlē~ vs by skylle
To do that is most goddes wyll
Ther-for fyrst byhoueth vs nede
Jff we schall off owre askynges spede
Thes foure wordes to vnderstonde
And lede owre lyf as they commaunde
Elles were we not worthy
To be herde off god almyghty
Thes are the fowre wordes to here
That are the entre off thys prayere
<lat></lat>
These arn~ on Englysch thus to neuē
Fader owre that art in heuen~
These . iiij . mykyl mater bynde
As clerkys in her bokys fynde .
Thys fyrst worde is Pater ryght
That is a worde off full gret~ myght
For it maketh vs soone to spede
Off owre askyng~ whan we haue nede
As we may bothe se and fele
Jff we vnderstande that worde wele
For Seynt Barnarde seyth that the prayere
That begynneth ryght on thys manere
Wyth thys swete name to nevene
That is called fader off heuen~

Gyueth an hope to purchace
 All that we aske here off grace
 Thys worde fader to vnderstande
 That maketh swete all the remenawnde
 Scheweth vs that we schall trowe
 And what we schall do here and howe
 It schewyth the lengthe off goddes beynge
 That is euer-more wyth-owten endyng
 For god wythowten endyng~ is
 And hys lastyng~ is endeles
 He is begynnyng~ wyth-owten begynnyng~
 And he is ende w^t-owte endyng~
 <fol. 3ra>That ordeyned hem that hys were
 To lyue wyth hym for euermore
 for 3e schall weell vnderstonde than~
 That fyrst whan~ god schulde make man~
 Euery man~ to good ordeyned he
 But he wist what euery man schulde be
 Who wolde be good who wolde be ille
 For he yaf euery man~ hys after-wylle
 For to chese and for to holde
 Good or evyll wheder he wolde
 Jyt he ne destreyned man to blys
 But tho that only wolde ben hys
 Jyt pater stereth vs to knowen even~
 Thre thyngys in god fader off heaven~
 And thre thynges in sone to se
 That lovyn~ the fader w^t hert fre
 ¶ Fyrst in god the fader is myght
 And ther-wyth wysdom and godenesse ryght
 Jn god the fader arn~ all thes thre
 For he is o god in trinite
 Myght in hym as ay oonly
 For he is god fader almyghty
 Mayster and lorde as clerky<add>s</add> kan telle
 Off heuen~ off erthe and off helle
 And off all thyng maker he is
 And begynnyng~ of all goodnesse
 So men may as J vnderstande

Knowe hys myght that is ay lastande
 In god the fader is wysedome
 That off hym-self oonly byhoueth come
 Throw whyche he hys meyne ledeth
 And gouerneth hym~ wysely and spedeth
 And namely hys chylderen~ that he wrowght
 That loueth hym well in hert and thowght
 So may men knowe who so wyll
 His wysedome by kyndely skyl
 In god the fader is bonyte
 That is the thynde thyng~ to se
 <fol. 3rb>For god the fader hys chylderen~ loueth
 And somtyme here he hem proueth
 And whan~ he seth that they do wrong~
 He betheth and chasteth thaym a-mong~
 And yf they forsake in certayne
 He hem receyueth debonayrely
 And fayne is off her company
 So may men knowe the goodnesse
 That in god the fader es
 Ther-for schulde hys chylderyn~ alle
 Als ofte as they her fader calle
 Knowe in hym thes thynges thre
 Myght wysedom and bonyte
 Jyt in hys chylderen~ men may knowe
 Thre thynges to telle on rawe
 That they haue off the fader mast
 As J woll schew 3ow in hast
 The . ij . bene nobylnesse and rychesse
 The . thynde is bewte as J gesse
 Nobylnesse is fyrst as J wene
 In hym that goddys chylderen~ bene
 For more nobylnesse may no man se
 Than it is goddys chylderen~ to be
 That is so hygh an Emperowr~
 And kyng~ off all kynges off honowr~
 Rychesse also to hem falleth
 That men~ goddys chylderen~ calleth
 For more rychesse may no man haue

Than god on hys chylceryn~ fouchesaue
 For god maketh hem~ hys heyres ryght
 Off the kyngedome off heuen bryght
 Ther all kyn ryches that may fall
 Arn~ sen~ and all kyn~ delytes wyth all
 Beute in goddys chylderen~ is
 For god hym made to hys lykenesse
 And after hys schap that is so fayre
 He made her sowles off the ayre
 More beute myght neuer be sene
 Than in hys lykenesse as J wene
 <fol. 3va>For Beaute so grete as is thereyn~
 No herte may thynke ne Jmagyn~
 Therefore hys chylderen~ schulde thenke ay
 As ofte sythe as they fader say
 On thes thre thynges that they haue
 Off the fader that well fouchesaue
 Suche thynges on hem~ for her byhoue
 Ther-for hym oweth weel her fader to loue
 Also this worde that fader is called
 Asketh off vs . vj . thynges to hald
 That J wyll reken here on rawe
 These . vj . schulde hys chylceryn knowe
 Loue and drede and obedyence
 Seruyse honowr~ and reuerence
 The fyrst thyng that god asketh off vs
 Is loue that we loue hym thus
 Wyth all oure herte in body wrought
 Wyth all owre sowle and all owre thowght
 Wyth all owre herte that is to say
 That we on no thyng nyght ne day
 Set owre herte to loue mare
 Than on god how so we fare
 Ne on no thyng~ that men may neven~
 Haue more delyte than in god off heuen~
 Wyth all owre sowle we schulde hym love
 That is to sey yff we wyll prove
 We schulde rather thole yf we wer~ wyse
 Oure lyf to de-parte from owre bodyes

Than fro god departed be
 That is owre fader full of pyte
 That is we schulde the deth er~ take
 Er we schulde owre fader for-sake
 We schulde hym loue w^t all owre thought
 That is to say that we schulde nought
 Owre wytte ne owre vnderstandyng~
 Ne owre thowght throw Jmagynyng~
 A-bowte no thyng more to occupy
 Than in god fader almyghty
 <fol. 3vb>The secunde thyng~ is drede also
 To haue in hert were so we go
 That we drede god wyth all owre myght
 Throwe sones drede than do we ryght
 And not throwe drede that men calleth
 Carles dred that ofte falleth
 Carles dreden~ her lorde throw awe
 And nought for loue as men may knowe
 The good sones throwe loue han~ drede
 To wroth her fader in worde or dede
 Thys may well sones drede be calde
 Suche drede in hert schulde we halde
 And drede ay more goddys grevaunce
 Than peyne off helle or hys veyngeaunce
 For drede off peyne oonly to se
 Js drede wyth-owten charyte
 All that men don~ in suche a drede
 Schall turne hym vnto lyttyll mede
 Fyrst throwe fyre may drede begynne
 Oonly for vengeaunce off synne
 W^t such drede men may begyn~ to do wele
 And afterwarde a full swete loue fele
 That the holy+goost throwe drede schall knytte
 Jn here hertys to stable here wytte
 Drede maketh a man synne to forsake
 And loue maketh a man~ good uertues to take
 Tho that these two in hert wyll halde
 Goddys sones be ryght may be calde
 Tho sones may call here boldely

God her fader that is myghty
 The thyrd thyng obedyence es
 That is thus moche to say buxomnesse
 That we be buxome to goddys wyll
 And hys comaundementys all to full-fyll
 For the sones schulde be obedyent
 To do the faders *commaundement*
 Hys comawndementys who so wyll loke
 He may fynde hym after in thys boke
 <fol. 4ra>The ferthe thyng~ is Seruyse
 For we ar holden off offyce
 To serue god oure fader to pay
 Wyth all the besynes that we may
 And all oure harte and all owre wyll geve
 To do that . that to hym is most lefe
 Suche seruyse may most hye
 In all the werkes off mercye
 As men may fynde in thys boke
 Afterwarde who so wyll loke
 The fyfte thyng is honour~ tolde
 That we schulde all 3ong~ and olde
 Loue god ~~3ong~ and o~~ w^t grete talent
 Off all goodes that he hath vs sent
 Off suche good we schulde take kepe
 And spende it in hys worschyp
 And in no ryattes ne in no folyes
 And yf we do we ar not wyes
 For vs byhoueth a-cowntes gyve
 Off all that we do whyle we lyue
 And of all that god here wyll vs sende
 And schowe howe that we hym spende
 Off all the folyes that we do
 And off euery owre off the tyme therto
 Therfor~ we schulde god honour~
 Euery tyme and euery owre
 Other in worde other in dede
 Or in thowght hym honowre bede
 And thanke hym ofte and loue hym ay
 Off that he dooth nyght and day

So schulde the good sones by skyl
 Honowr~ the fader that is hys wyll
 Reuerence is the syxte and the last
 For we schulde wyth hert stedefast
 Do to god all maner reuerence
 And namely here in hys presence
 In chyrche and in stedys w^t-owte
 Ther hys body is bore a-bowte

<Tranche 2>

<fol. 60va>That in suche tyme ben~ bygete messelles
 And somme that haueth no schappe off man~
 And fooles that neuer no wytte can~
 And halt and lame and croked and blynde
 And domme and deaf suche may men~ fynde
 Wherfor the woman~ that weddyd is
 And feleth here in suche sykenesse
 Schulde not fro hyr lorde it hele
 Jff he that tyme wolde wyth hyr dele
 But yff sche lyeth and haldeth hyr styll
 And suffreth hym wyth hyr to do hys wylle
 Jff he knoweth not that pryvyte
 Sche synneth dedely . and nought he
 Also booth they schulde kepe hem clene
 And fro suche dedes hem abstene
 In hooly tymes that ben~ der~
 As at hygh festes off the yer~
 And do nought ellys in the tymes namely
 But serven owre lorde god almyghty
 And hys seruyse than to fulfyll
 For it was ordeyned for that skyl
 Also they schulde in tyme off fastyng
 Absteyne hem weell fro suche lykyng
 Nought oonly for that it is synne
 But for that they myght the souner wyne
 Thyng that they aske off god than
 As seyth seint Austyn~ the holy man~

Also they schulde absteyne hem ryght
 Fro that dede wyth all here myght
 All that tyme yff they be wyse
 When the woman~ in Josyne lyse
 Or when they haue certayne knowynge
 That hyr tyme is nygh off chylde berynge
 They schulde in no tyme erly ne late
 Meddell hem~ to-geders in suche state
 But absteyne hym weell for honeste
 And for drede off perylles that myght be
 And also fro the dede hym spare
 Fro the tyme that sche wyth quyk chylde ware
 For yff the dede in that state be wrought
 Wythouten synne is it J-do nought
 J fynde wrytten thus in a booke
 Off kynde off beestys who so wyll looke
 How that the Olyfaunt wyll forsake
 The feleshyp off hys owne make
 All the tyme that sche wyth foole is
 And off thys bereth the booke wytnesse
 Than thynketh me that a man schulde be
 <fol. 60vb>More lad wyth skylle and tempre
 Than a best that no skylle
 That foloweth after kynde hys wyll
 Wherfor a man schulde hem abstene
 When hys wyf in that state is sene
 But alwey wyll J not say
 That he synneth in that dede ay
 Jff he in suche tyme the dede wyll do
 Wyth hys wyf that assenteth therto
 By good cause and entencyon~ ryght
 That can god deme that is full of myght
 The thyrd caas ther dedely synne may be
 In the dede off spousayle so pryve
 Js when a man~ throw hys owne rede
 Delyth wyth hys wyf in holy stede
 As chyrche J-halowed and chyrche-yerde
 Off whyche men schulde take good rewarde
 For that stede is appropred oonly

To serve oure lorde god almyghty
 Ther schulde no man suche a dede do
 Wyth hys wyf thou sche assent therto
 But absteyne hym~ yff he haue grace
 For reuerence off that holy place
 And who wyll nought hym abstene
 Ne kepe that holy stede clene
 He synneth and dooth gret+vylanye
 Vnto that stede that is so holye
 For the werke off weddelok that is fre
 Jn holy stede grete synne may it be
 And in holy tyme when it is wrought
 That in other tyme and stede it deryth nought
 The ferthe state that schulde be clene
 Js off hem that wydowes haue bene
 Ther that deth that spareth ryght noon~
 Hath twynned two and J-take that oon~
 But whether off hem that lyueth on lyve
 Be it the man or be it the wyf
 Schulde hys lyf chastely lede
 Whyle he is in the state off wydowhede
 Whyche that is a state moche to prays
 As seint poule the apostell says
 He counceylleth hem that wydewes ben calde
 That they hem in that state halde
 And yff that state hem nought pay
 He byddeth hem to be wedded when they may
 For better it is as sayth he
 A+man hym wedde than J-brent be
 That man hym brenneth throw foly
 That assenteth vnto lechery
 For he putteth hys hert in-to the fyre
 <fol. 61ra>Off lechery throw foule desyre
 And better hym were to be wed
 Than to that fyre to brennynge be led
 That is to vnderstande thus oonly
 As ye have herde now in thys party
 Off hem that schulde here lyf lede
 Jn the state off symple wydowhede

But nought off tho as J well trowe
 That ben~ therto J-bounde throw vowe
 So that they may nought J-maryed be
 Wythoute synne that is dedely to se
 After that the vow is made fast
 For-thy it byndeth hem to god fast
 And yff they it breke ageyne goddys wyll
 They departe hem-self fro god throw skylle
 But yff that the vow all pryve be
 And symple wythoute solempnite
 All be it that he synne dedely to sayne
 And yff he ther-after be maryed a-gayne
 When he is wedded all do he ylle
 In that state he may dwelle styll
 But the man or woman~ that so duse
 For that vow broken~ schulde penance vse
 But when the vow is made lastaunde
 Solemply throw prelates hande
 Or throw makyng~ off professyon~
 And vmbleth hem so to relygyon~
 Or throw holy ordre that men taken~
 That is deken prest or ellys subdeken~
 In thys case is the maryage nought
 For a-gayne the law it is wrought
 But hem byhoueth departed be
 That weddeth hem in suche degre
 For they be nought saue as seyth the booke
 But they kepe the state that they fyrst toke
 But to the state off wydowhede
 J fynde suche ensample to rede
 In a booke off bestes kynde
 That wydewes schulde haue in mynde
 Off the turtyll that leseth here make
 That neuer after wyll other take
 But fleeth all others companye
 And dwelleth in wyldernesse oonly
 But thre thynges falleth as J wene
 To hem that in that state bene
 The fyrst is as clerkys wate

That who so in wydowes state
 Schulde haue hym prevyly in hys Jnne
 And vse sylence wythouten dynne
 And nought folowe stronge company
 Ne aboute the worlde be ouer-besy
 <fol. 61rb>And off that ensample fynde J can~
 Off Judyth that was a noble woman~
 That was feyre both off hyde and hewe
 And clene wydow sche was and trewe
 Off whom than speketh holy wryte
 As seyne these clerkys that knowen ytte
 That fro hyr chambre sche wolde not passe
 Ne fro hyr maydens that wyth hyr was
 But sche helde hyr prevyly in cloos
 Fro syght off men and worldes loos
 Wher-for seint poule moche reproveth
 These wydowes that Jdylnes loveth
 And yonge wymmen~ queyntly dyght
 That schewen hem moche to mennes syght
 And tho that ben~ ouermoche Jangelynge
 Thys to wydowes .^[is] nought semynge
 But tho that wydewes ben ryght calde
 Wythynne here cloos schulde hem halde
 And kepe hem fro mennes speche and fle
 All worldly syghtys and vanyte
 And hem occupye in good dede
 Thys falleth to the state off wydowhede
 The secunde is thys ofte to pray
 And to serve god both nyght and day
 And gladly to be at the chyrche
 And werkys off devocyon~ to wyrche
 As we fynde wrytten~ in@ a booke
 Off the gospell off luke who wyll it looke
 That spekyth off a noble woman~
 That was a wydowe and hyght Anne
 That wolde nought fro the tempell passe
 But dwelled ay ther as hyr wyll was
 And peyned her wyth all hyr myght
 To serve god booth day and nyght

In devoute prayers and fastynges
 And blethely sche dyd hys byddynges
 The thyrd thyng as me thynke
 To vse ay strayte mete and drynke
 For who so wyll holde hym chaste
 Hym byhoueth to vse grete mete mast
 And nought delycyous deyntees
 That maketh many chastyte to lefe
 For seint poule sayth and beryth wyttensse
 That a woman that wydowe is
 That in delytes here lyf ledeth
 Js dede throw synne that men dredyth
 And Bernard sayth that speketh off vices
 That chastyte peryssheth in delytes
 That is as he peryssheth soone
 In the water and is fordoone
 <fol. 61va>That vnder the water haldeth hys hede
 He may soone drenchen and ben dede
 Wherfor no man~ may ouer-longe holde
 Hys hede that is hys hert tolde
 In the water off worldly delytes
 That stereth many men~ to vices
 And bryngeth many to helle pyne
 When that he schall hys lyf tyne
 Also to wydowes that ben trewe
 Falleth meke clothynge off meke hewe
 And nought off gay colour~ staryng~
 Ne off queynt schap that is gay semyng
 But wydowes schulde ensample take
 Off Judyth that left for goddys sake
 Hyr ryche robes that syde goun traylle
 And all hyr other gay apparaylle
 That felle booth to body and to hede
 And in that meke habyte sche yede
 That was more tokene off dole namely
 Than off Joy and off vaynglory
 And forthy sche loved chastyte
 And wolde the enchesons opp synne fle
 Sche left the apparayle that was feyre

And all hyr lyf wered the heyre
And fasted all the dayes off the yere
But tho that were holy and dere
And yet sche was ryght fayre and yonge
And wyse off dede and feyre speche wyth tonge
But the goodnesse off hyr herte and thought
And love and chastyte that sche sought
That sche schewed ofte and hydde nought
Made hyr to do all that sche do ought
Ryght so schulde wydowes her lyf lede
And kepe the state off wydowhede
In chastyte and also in clenness
Fro fylthe and synne that clevyng~ es
Namely they that ar bounden to be
Chast throw vow off chastyte
For other that ben nought bounde ther-tylle
Mow marye hem when they wylle
The . v . state is clene virgynes
That the vycory off here flessch wynnes
The wych ben chast and ay have bene
And thynken ay forworde to kepe hem clene
Fro all maner corrupcyons off body
Oonly for the love off god almyghty
And thys state is moche to prays
For thre thynges as the booke says
That is to say for the dygnyte
For the bewte and for the bounte
Fyrst men schulde kepe that state
For the dygnyte as these clerkys wate