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maūdrucians pat I haue not kepte. my
froue writtis yuel spendid. steneue beede
of ma bodu & gostli not fulfild but ofte
more & worse yau I can telle: ye cause
of my negligence I am a knowe y I haue
sined. wherfore I crye for my lord ihū
crist mercy: pat I principally haue tres
passid to, and to see you blestid modir of
my lord ihū crist wyf al ye cūpany of he
uene uirgy: & you chirche slepyngē
& you sityngē chirche in pis
world to which I haue trespassid i your
word and dede. uirgy and you lord to
whom stretchy al ye trespass: mercy
lord god uirgy. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
Here endy a ceterū mānys confes
sion: ye which is also a deuoute
Prison.

LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY MS. 541, fol. 165^r.

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and the Library Trustees of Lambeth Palace.)

THE MIDDLE ENGLISH
ST BRENDAN'S CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Edited from Lambeth Palace Library MS. 541,

By

FUMIO KURIYAGAWA

Six manuscripts of the Middle English *St. Brendan's Confession and Prayer* have been found :

1. Lambeth Palace Library: MS. 541, fol. 150^b-165^a (XVth century). (La) cf. *A Catalogue of the Archbishopal Manuscripts in the Library at Lambeth Palace* (London, 1812), p. 69; MONTAGUE RHODES JAMES and CLAUDE JENKINS, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library of Lambeth Palace* (Cambridge University Press, 1930), pp. 743-745. This MS. is not mentioned by R. H. BOWERS, 'The Middle English St. Brendan's Confession', *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen*, 175. Bd., Der neuen Serie 75. Bd. (1939), pp. 40-49.
2. Cambridge University Library: MS. Hh. I. 12, fol. 52^a-59^b (XVth century). (C) cf. *A Catalogue of the Manuscripts preserved in the Library of the University of Cambridge*, edited for the Syndics of the University Press, Vol. III (Cambridge, 1858), pp. 264-265. This MS. is used by R. H. BOWERS, *loc. cit.*, as the basis of his text, with corrections and additions from the Queen's (Q) and Harleian (H) copies.
3. Oxford, Queen's College: MS. CCX, fol. 1^a-10^b (XVth century). (Q) cf. H. O. COXE, *Catalogus Codicum MSS. qui in Collegiis Aurisque Oxoniensibus*, Pars I (Oxonii, 1852).
4. British Museum: MS. Harl. 1706, fol. 84^a-87^b (XVth century). (H)

- cf. *A Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum*, Vol. II (1808), pp. 178-179.
5. Oxford, Bodleian Library: MS. Rawlinson C. 699, fol. 162^b-179^a (XVth century). (R) cf. *Catalogi Codicum Manuscriptorum Bibliothecae Bodleianae Partis Quintae; Fasciculo Secundus. Uiri Munificentissimi Ricardi Rawlinson, J.C.D. Codicum Classem Tertiam, in qua libri theologici atque miscellanei complectens; confecit GILIELMUS D. MACRAY (Oxonii, 1878). This MS. is not mentioned by BOWERS, loc. cit.*
 6. Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris: MS. anglais 41, fol. 162^b-176^a (XIVth century). (P) cf. FUMIO KURIYAGAWA, *Walter Hilton's Eight Chapters on Perfection* (Tokyo, 1967), pp. xiii-xix. This MS. is not mentioned by BOWERS, loc. cit.

The manuscripts attribute the *Confession and Prayer* to St. Brendan (484-577 or 583), Abbot of Clonfert. Now St. Brendan is best known as the hero of the fascinating story of the miraculous voyage in quest of the Island of the Blessed. The Latin *Navigatio S. Brendani* was composed, according to its latest editor, probably in Lotharingia in the first half of the tenth century.¹ It soon acquired great popularity all over Western Europe. There are no less than 47 MSS. of the Latin *Navigatio* extant. As early as the twelfth century, the Latin *Navigatio* was translated into the vernaculars of various countries: Anglo-Norman, Old French, Old Provençal, Italian, Catalan, Old Dutch, Middle Low German, Middle High German, Norwegian and Middle English.

It was doubtless due to the popularity of *St. Brendan's Voyage* that a Latin prayer was attributed to him. In a preface to the Latin

¹ CARL SELMER, *Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis*, edited with Introduction and Notes (Notre Dame, Indiana, 1959), pp. xxviii-xxix.

prayer, *Oratio S. Brendani*, preserved in British Museum MS. Addit. 33.773, fol. 2^a-fol. 2^b, I find the following account: —

Beatus brandanus monachus fecit istam orationem. Et reuelata est ei a sancto michael archangelo. quando tranferauit septem maria. et data est illi ista oratio post septem annos pasce querens insulam repromissionis. et celebrauit pascha septem annis continuus supra mare...../(fol. 2^b, lines 7ff.).....Auctoritas diuina reuelauit istam orationem beato brandano.

(Blessed Brendan the monk composed this prayer. It was revealed to him by the holy Archangel Michael, when he [*i. e.* St. Brendan] had crossed the seven seas, and this prayer was given him on Easter day after his seven years' search for the Isle of Promise, having celebrated Easter day for seven successive years upon the seas...../.....Divine authority revealed this prayer to St. Brendan...)

Oratio S. Brendani is preserved in a number of MSS.,² but the only edition of it, published many years ago by PATRICK F. MORAN in his *Acta Sancti Brendani: Original Latin Documents connected with the Life of Saint Brendan, Patron of Kerry and Clonfert* (Dublin, 1872), pp. 27-44, is based upon a single MS., Bibliotheca Sessoriana, Rome, B. CXXVII.

Whether this Latin *Oratio S. Brendani* is the original of the Middle

² British Museum MS. Royal 7D. XXVI, fol. 9^a-16^a; Brit. Mus. MS. Addit. 4785, fol. 2^a-9^a; Brit. Mus. MS. Addit. 33.773, fol. 2^a-23^a; Brit. Mus. MS. Addit. 37.787 fol. 165 (abridged); Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 1260, fol. 214^b-229^b; Oxford Bodleian MS. 1851 (II), fol. 103-124; Cambridge Corpus Christi College MS. 275, fol. 59-69; St. Gallen MS. No. 321; The Library and Museums of the University of Urbana, Illinois, MS. No. 66, fol. 1^a-4^a, 5^a-10^b—Confession of sins, in Latin (fol. 4^a-4^b); Bibliotheca Sessoriana, Rome, MS. B. CXXVII.—SEYMOUR DE RICCI and W. J. WILSON, *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*, II (New York, 1937), p. 2118, give *Orazione di San Brendano* (XVth century) in the possession of the Carnegie Library. Is this an Italian version of *Oratio S. Brendani*?

English *St. Brendan's Confession and Prayer*, has not been investigated. But so far as I have compared the ME text with the Latin *Oratio S. Brendani* of British Museum MS. Addit. 33. 773, it seems very unlikely that the Latin *Oratio* was the original of the ME prose *Confession and Prayer*, though it is possible that the author of the ME work derived the idea of attributing his own work to the popular Irish saint from the Latin *Oratio S. Brendani*.

An analysis of the contents of the ME prose *St. Brendan's Confession and Prayer* will make it clear that it is a work of religious instruction rather than a record of any individual's actual confession of any specific offence. The work may be divided into seven parts:—I. Preface (5–39); II. The Seven Deadly Sins (40–126); III. The Ten Commandments (127–291); IV. The Five Bodily Senses (292–344); V. The Seven Deeds of Bodily Mercy (345–405); VI. The Seven Deeds of Spiritual Mercy (406–429); VII. Conclusion (429–443).

Detailed discussion of the language, relationship of the MSS., date of composition, authorship, etc., must be postponed till another opportunity. Here I must content myself with printing the hitherto unpublished text of Lambeth Palace MS. 541, together with variant readings from Cambridge University Library MS. Hh. I. 12 (C), which R. H. BOWERS used as the basis of his text. The text of the Lambeth MS. (*La*) is faithfully followed, except in the following points:— (1) abbreviations have been expanded and such expansions indicated by italic type; (2) the punctuations and capitalization are editorial; (3) word-division is regularized; (4) the paragraphing is done according to the paragraph-marks in the MS.

* * *

THE MIDDLE ENGLISH
 ST. BRENDAN'S CONFESSION AND PRAYER
 (Lambeth Palace Library MS. 541)

Here bigynneþ a confessyoun which is also a preier [fol. 150^b]
 þat Seynt Brandoun made, and it is riȝt needful to a
 Cristen man to seye and worche þer-after in his
 lyuynge.

I knowleche to þee, þou hiȝ increate and euerlastynge ⁵
 Trynyte: þat is to seie, almiȝty God þe Fadir, almiȝti
 God þe Sone, |almiȝti God þe Holy Goost, and napelees [fol. 151^a]
 not þre almyȝti Goddis: but oon almyȝti God þat madist
 al þing of nouȝt, as it likede to þin hiȝ magiste, my
 Lord God and my Saueour. ¹⁰

I knowleche also to þee, þou moost blessid womman
 oure Lady Seynt Marye, mayde and modir of my Lord
 God and Saueour.

I knowleche also to þee, þou hiȝ and holy cumpany
 of heuene. ¹⁵

I knowleche also to þee, þou Chirche sleping in
 purgatorye.

I knowleche also to þee, þou Chirche fiȝtynge in þis
 world, þat I haue symned first to þee, my Lord God and
 my Saueour; for I haue not worschipid þee wiþ alle ²⁰

2 needful] nedeful C. 3 worche] werche C. 7 napelees] nepeles C.
 9 pin] thy C. magiste] maieste C. 11 blessid] blyssyd C. 12 mayde]
 maydyn C. 22 do] done C. 25 al] alle C. blessid] blyssed C.

my þouʒtis, wordis and werkis, as I myʒte, ouʒte, coude,
or myʒte haue coud, if I hadde do my bisynes.

[fol. 151^b] That I haue trespassid al-so aʒens þee, oure Lady
Seynt Marye, þat art my Lord Ihesu Cristis derworþe
25 modir wiþ al þe blessid company of heuene, in lettynge
of ʒoure ful ioie bi my wickid lyuynge, þat schulde
haue be moorid; if I hadde wel lyued. Wherfore, þou
my Lord God *and* Saueour, I crie þee *mercy*; *and* þou
blessid modir of *him* wiþ al þe company blessid *and*
30 holy *in heuen*, I crie þee *mercy*.

Also þou Chirche in *purgatorye* slepynge, I haue
greuously trespassid to þee, þat myʒtist han be releued
and holpen bi my good lyuynge, good þinkyng *and*
almes-deede doynge. Wherfore, *and* to þee I crie
35 *mercy*.

Also þou fiʒtyng Chirche in erþe, I haue lettid þee
of *grace* þoru myn yuel lyuynge: in wiþdrawynge oþere
men fro *vertues* to *vicis*, by yuel occasioun ʒeuynge.

[fol. 152^a] Wherfore | I crie þee *mercy*.

40 Also I haue trespassid to þee my God, my Lord, my
Fadir and myn Aʒeynbier, in þe vii deedli synnes, þe
whiche þou forbeed me to do on peyne of euerlastynge
dampnacioun, whiche ben pryde, wraþþe *and* envie,
gloteny, slouþe, leccherie *and* couetise.

26 ful] fulle C. 28 my lord god] lorde my god C. (fol. 52^b, lines 7-8).
29 blessid^{1, 2}] blissid C. 32 han] haue C. be] bene C. 36 fiʒtyng]
fiʒtyng C. lettid] leted C. 37 þoru] þorouh C. yuel] euel C. 38
yuel] euel C. ʒeuynge] ʒeuynge C. 43 wraþþe] wraþe C. 44 gloteny]
glotony C. slouþe] sleuþe C. 46 be] bene C. 50 blessid] blissid C.

ffirst I haue trespasid azeins þee, my Lord, my God, ⁴⁵
 my Fadir *and* myn Azeinbier : in pryde, þat I haue be
 vn**xum** to þe *in* alle my þouztis : for to þinke on þi
 goodnes ; ne *in* alle my wordis : for to speke of þi
 vertues, ne I haue not kept þe rule of spekyng to þi
 worschip aftir þi blessid techyng, as fro ydil speche, fro ⁵⁰
 foul speche, *and* wickid speche.

I haue trespasid azeins þee, my God, in my werkis :
 þat I haue not fulfillid þi biddyngis, *and* do þe gode
 |werkis þat I myzte haue do, *and* ouzte to haue do to [fol. 152^b]
 þi worschip. ⁵⁵

I haue be *prud* of herte in my þouztis, of my kunnyng,
 of my spekyng, of myn aberyng, of strenkþe, of aray,
 of schap, of kynrede, of riches, *and* of alle þe goodis
and ziftis þat þou God hast do to me ; for þe whiche
 I ouzte þe moore to haue be meke *and* *buxum* to þee ⁶⁰
 my God, *and* to alle þyne.

Also I haue be proud *inward* in þinkyng, *and* outward
 in schewyng *and* doinge : wherfore I crie þee, my Lord
 Ihesu Crist, *mercy*.

I haue synned *in* wraþþe azens þee my good God : ⁶⁵
 takyng on me þi doom, willyng wreccche *and* desiryng
 veniaunce, azens þe wille *and* þe biddyng of þe God.

I haue synned in wraþþe, *in* dissesyng of my silf.

I haue |synnyd in wraþþe azeins manye of þee, þou [fol. 153^a]

54 do] don C. 56 be] ben C. prud] proude C. 57 strenkþe] strengþe
 C. 59 ziftis] zeftes C god] om. C. do] doon C. 60 be] ben C.
 62 be] bene C. inward] in worde C (fol. 53^a, line 11). 67 wreccche]
 wreche C. 68 silf] selfe C. 69 wraþþe] wreþe C. manye] mony C. 70

70 fȳtynge Chirche: in yuele willinge, in yuel spekyngē,
and in yuel doynge; oþerwise doon to hem þan I wolde
þei dyden to me, *and oþerwise* spoke by hem or to
hem, þan I wolde þei hadden by me or to me; wherfore
I crie to þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist, *mercy*.

75 I haue synnyd *in* enuye grucchyngē aʒens þee, God,
for þi goodnes þat þou hast do to myn euencristen.
I haue be glad of oþere mennys harm, of her losse *and*
her dissese, whanne I haue not loued hem. I haue be
sory of her encrees in goodnes, *in* strenkþe, *in* wisdom,
80 *in* welfare *and in* welþe, whanne I haue hatid hem.
Wherfore I crie þee, my Lord God, *mercy*.

[fol. 153^b] I haue synnyd in glotenye aʒens þee my God, in
ouermyche dispen-|dyngē of þi goodis, Lord, needles;
for þe which I haue serued þee, my God, þe wors
85 whanne I ouʒte haue serued þee myche þe betere. I
haue ete *and* drunke oftir *and* moore þan me nedide
to þe sustenaunce of my bodi *and* soule. I haue
deuourid *and* wastid needles þat nedy men myʒte
haue be holpen *and* cumfortid *with* to her sustenaunce:
90 wherfore I crie þee *mercy*.

I haue synnyd *in* slouþe, my Lord God, of þi seruise:
þat I haue left þat I schulde do, *and* þat I schulde

fȳtyngē] fityngē C. yuele] euel C. yuel] euel] C. 71 yuel] euel C.
72 dyden] deden C. spoke] spoken C. 76 do] done C. 77 her] hir
C. 78 her] hir C. 78 be] ben C. 79 her] hir C. encrees] encesse
C. strenkþe] strengþe C. 82 glotenye] glotonnie C. 84 wors] wers
C. (fol. 56^b, line 5). 86 ete] etyn C. drunke] drunkyn C. 89 be]
ben C. her] hir C. 90 þee] þe my god C. (fol. 53^b, line 10). 93 do]

haue left I haue do. I haue be slou3 to heere good *and*
 lerne goodnes *and* to do þere-aftir; *and* slou3 to leue
 heerynge of wickidnes *and* of harm. I haue be slou3 ⁹⁵
 in my seyng to se þe siztis of þe goodnes of þee God,
and slou3 to leue þe siztis of vanyte *and* of yuel; *and*
 haue be slou3 to speke goodness to |þe worschip of þee [fol. 154^a]
 God *and* to myn euencristen; *and* slou3 to leue yuel
 speche, wickid speche, and harmful speche. I haue be ¹⁰⁰
 slou3 to do gode deedis to þe worschip of þee my God,
and profi3t to myn euencristen.

I haue be slou3 to go gode weyes to þe worschip of
 þee God, *and* profi3t of myn euencristen. I haue be
 slou3 to þinke goode þou3tis, *and* to leue wickide þo3tis ¹⁰⁵
and ydil. I haue be slou3 to leue symne *and* fle it; *and*
 slou3 forto lere vertues *and* vsen hem. I haue be slou3
 to wilne good, speke good, *and* do good, to þe worschip
 of þee God *and* profi3t of myn euencristen; wherfore
 I crie þee mercy. ¹¹⁰

I haue synnyd in leccherie and in foule þou3tis, in
 foule *and* wickide desiris, in leccherous spekyng,
 in lusti leccherous heeringe, in leccherous seyng *and*
 lokyng, |in leccherous kysyng, in leccherous araiyng [fol. 154^b]
and atiryng. ¹¹⁵

In goostly leccherie I haue also synned, þat I haue not

doon C. be] ben C. slou3] slow C. (so in lines 94, 95, 97, 98, 99,
 100, 103, 105, 106, 107). 97 vanyte] vanytes C. yuel] euell C. 97
 and] I C. (fol. 53^b, line 18). 99 yuell] euyll C. 100 be] ben C. 102
 profi3t] profite C. 103 be] ben C. 104 profi3t] profite C. 104 be]
 ben C. 106 be] ben C. 107 forto lere] to lerne C. 107 be] ben C.
 108 wilne] willen C. 109 profi3t] profite C. pee mercy] þe merciful
 and gracious god mercy C. (fol. 54^a, line 3). 111 in³] and in C. 118

loued þee, my spouse Crist, as I schulde do, to whom I was weddid at my *Cristendom*. Wherefore I crie þee *merci*.

120 I haue *synnyd* in couetyse, þat I haue not holde me apaied in alle tymes wiþ þe pore astaat þat þou hast sett me *ynne*; but oþerwyse haue wilnyd *and* desirid moore heelpē, moore welþe, moore strenkþe moore kunnyng, moore riches, moore fairnes, *and* excludynge
125 of alle aduersitees: wherefore I crie þee, my Lord *Ihesu Crist*, *mercy*.

Here bigynnen þe ten heestis.

O þou hiȝ incomprehensible increate and euerlastynge
[fol. 155^a] Trynyte: þee aloone I schulde haue wor-|schipid, wiþ
130 al my myȝt, *with* al my mynde, wiþ al my witt, wiþ al my wille, wiþ al my resoun, *and* wiþ alle þe myȝtis of soule *and* body: in þouȝt, word *and* deede.

Also I schulde not haue take þin name in ydilnes, ne in falsheed, neþer bi word ne in maner of lyuynge.

135 Also I schulde haue kept þin holiday, in deuoute preier, in fastinge fro synne, *and* in discreet almes-deede-doyngē bodili or goostli.

Also my fadir *and* modir I schulde haue worschupid, wiþ worschup aproprid vnto hem.

þee] þe my lord ihesu crist C (fol. 54^a, line 11). 120 holde] holdyn C. 122 haue] I haue C. 123 strenkþe] strengþe C. 127 Here bigynnen . . . heestis] Decem precepta C. 132 of soule] of my soule C. and deede] orn. C. 133 take] taken C. 134 in²] be C. 138 modir] my m. C. 140

Also I schulde sle no man, neþer bodili ne goostli: 140
þat is, not bi strook, ne bi wille ne word.

Also I schulde do no leccherie, neþer bodily ne goostly.

Also I schulde not stele, neþer in wille ne in deede.

| Also I schulde lye no lesyng, neþer in priue ne in [fol. 155^b]
open. 145

Also I schulde not coueyte ony mannys seruauant, ne
his wiif, ne his beest, ne his hous, ne his lond, ne noon
oþer good þat is his.

In þese ten heestis I haue synnyd to þee, my Lord,
my God, my Maker *and* myn Azeinbier; whiche heestis 150
I myzte han kept, as I ouzte, coude, or myzte han
coud, if I hadde do my bisynes; for I haue not worschipid
þee God in alle tymes, *and* in al place: in þouzþt, in
word, *and* in deede.

I haue not loued þee God in alle tymes, aboue alle 155
þingis, wiþ al myn herte, wiþ al my mynde, *with* al
my soule, *and* wiþ alle my strengþis *and* myztis, as I
schulde; but ofte tymes haue louyd oþerwise þan I
schulde, *and* not loued þat I schulde haue loued. I
haue lo-|ued also lesse þat I schulde haue loued moore. 160 [fol. 156^a]

I haue not dred þee God aboue alle þingis, ne I haue

ne] neþer C. 141 ne word] ne by worde C. 142 ne] neþer C. 143
ne] neþer C. 144 neþer in priue] neþer bere fals witnesse neþer preue C.
(fol. 54^b, line 8). 151 han¹, ²] haue C. 152 do] don C. 154 and] om.
C. 159-160 I haue] Also I h. C. 160 also] om. C. 161 god] god

not serued þee God for alle þi ȝiftis, as I myȝte,
schulde, and coude.

I haue not tristid and leued in þee God alwey: þat
165 þou art almyȝti *and* maist help *and* no þing but þou
or bi þee, *and* þou art almyȝti *and* canst help al good,
and wilt helpe; helpist *and* cumfortist, as Fadir *and*
Lord Maker *and* Aȝeinbier, alle þi children and seruauntis,
and al mankynde þat wolen serue þee. Wherfore I
170 crie þee *mercy*.

I haue mys-take þe name of þee my God, þat I haue
not, in al tyme *and* in alle places, worschipid þee as I
schulde; for I haue mys-take þi name in my synful
lyuinge, þat I haue not lyued aftir þi lore: and so I
175 bere þe name of þe seruaunt of þee Lord, but I do
[fol. 156^b] not þi werkis. | Also in spekyng I haue mys-take þi
name God, as in *praiynge* vndeououtly, vnworschipfulli
and vnreuerentli.

Also I haue swore bi þi name, ydily, dilaully *and*
180 vnauysily: *and* sumtyme truly but I drede moore falsly.

I haue not kepte myn holiday aftir þi teching, Lord,
and haue not kepte me out of synne, ne fled synne on
þe holiday, as I myȝte *and* schulde. I haue not lerned
ne vsid uertues in holy tyme *and* in al tyme, as I myȝte
185 *and* schulde.

I haue not had mynde on þe holiday on þe goodnes

lord god C. 169 þee] þe good lorde god C. 171 my god] my lorde god
C. 175 bere] bare C. 180 falsly] wherfore I crye þe god mercy *add. C.*
(*fol. 55^a, line 17*). 181 myn] þe C. 182 and] I C. out] ought C.

of þee God þat þou hast do to me *and* al mankynde:
how þou madist us *and* alle þingis for us; how þou
kepist *and* gouernest us; how greet a peyne *and* hidous
þou suffridist for us, to bye us *and* bringe us fro þat ¹⁹⁰
euerlastyngē deēþ, þat we disserueden worþi to han.

Also | I haue no-þing þouzt on þe holi day, how wel [fol. 157^a]
I myzte haue serued þee, my good God, in word, þouzt
and deede, *and* haue left vndo; *and* haue þouzt, spoke
and doon, þat I schulde not haue þouzt, spoke ne do. ¹⁹⁵
Wherfore, my Lord God, I crie þee mercy.

Also I haue not worschipid my fadir *and* modir, boþe
bodili *and* goostli, in wille, word or deede, as I ouzte,
coude or myzte. I haue mys-spoke to hem. I haue not
buxumly *and* plesyngly herd hem, *and* doon aftir her ²⁰⁰
biddyng *and* aftir her teching. I haue not, goodli lowli
and mekely, holpen hem wiþ my seruisse, *and* with my
good *and* catel in al tyme, as I schulde *and* myzte.
Wherfore I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist, mercy.

I haue also trespassid in mansleyngē bodily or goostly: ²⁰⁵
in yuel willyngē and yuel spekyngē, *and* þat haþ ben
hyn-|dryngē *and* harmyngē to myn euencristen in name [fol. 157^b]
or in fame; *and* so I haue mys-do to oþere men, oþerwise
þan I wolde þei hadden do to me.

Also I haue be cause of greet synnyngē to oþere men ²¹⁰
and womme: bi my foly spekyngē, bi myn vngodly *and*

187 do] done C. 189 kepist] keptest C. han] haue C. 194 spoke]
spoken C. 199 mys-spoke] mysspoken C. 200 her] hir C. 201 her]
hir C. 206 yuel] euel C. 207 hyndryngē] -drin- *written twice, at the end*
of La fol. 157^a and at the beginning of La fol. 157^b. 211 womme] women

mys-araiynge, bi myn nyce cuntenaunce *and* yuel ensauple
zeuynge, boþe *in* word *and* deede. Wherfore I crie þee,
my Lord Ihesu Crist, *mercy*.

215 Also I haue broke þi vi heest, bi þe synne of leccherie
bodily *and* goostli: *in* wickide desiris of leccherie, and
in ful lust of leccherous doynge. Wherfore I crie þee,
my Lord Ihesu Crist, *mercy*.

Also I haue broke þi vii heest: doinge þe deede of
220 þefte boþe bodili *and* goostli, for I haue resseyued goodis
of þee, my Lord, and wickidli spendid hem, as goodis of
[fol. 158^a] kynde *and* goodis of fortune *and* goodis of *gra*-|ce, *and*
not serued þee *with* hem, whanne it bihofte me to haue
vsid hem, to þi worschip and glorie *and* to my profite.

225 Also I haue resseyued goodis of myn euencristen, by
mo sleiztes þan I can telle, and 3it *in* to þis hour I
haue not ne can not 3elden it iustli a3ein: neþer *in* wil,
word ne deede, as I schulde do.

Also, good Lord, I haue broke þin viii heest: greuousli
230 offendinge þee *in* lesyngis, for I haue be fals to þee
God, *and* to man also: to þee my Lord God, *in* false
biheestis *and* couenauntis þat I ofte haue maad to þee
and þine: *and* not fulfilled hem whanne I was cristnyd
and bihi3te to þee, my good Lord Ihesu Crist, *and* foond

C. 211 spekyng] speche C. 214 crist] *om.* C. 215 Also I haue] I haue
also C. 217 ful] foule C. 217 leccherous] wordis or *add.* C. 219 Also
I haue] I haue also C. broke] brokyn C. spendid] dispendid C. 223
whanne] when C. bihofte] bihoved C. haue] han C. 224 profite]
wherfor I crye þe lorde ihesu mercy *add.* C. (fol. 56^a, lines 7-8). 226 hour]
oure C. 227 ne can not] ne I can not C. 228 ne] in *add.* C. 230 in]
with C. 232 I ofte haue maad] I haue ofte made C. 234 þee] *om.* C.

borowis to þe preest: to be þi *perpetuel* seruaunt, *and* ²³⁵
to forsake þe deuel, *and* alle hise falsnessis, *and* I
bihiȝte to kepe þin hiȝe, iust *and* *perfiȝte* heestis: *and*
þus haue I not doon.

I haue |also, my good Lord God, bihiȝte to þee *and* [fol. 158^b]
to þe prest: to leue *and* forsake synne, *and* algatis ²⁴⁰
ȝit I dwelle *and* waltre þere, as a fatte sowe in hoot
somer turneþ *and* weendiþ hir in þe foule stynkinge
slouȝ.

I haue be fals also to myn euencristen: boþe in word
and deede, for þat þat I haue seid I wolde doon not, ²⁴⁵
ful ofte I haue doon it.

Also ful ofte tymes I haue bacbitid myn euencristen,
and spoken of hem oþer þing þan I schulde: for I
hadde nott hem bi loue in herte, aftir þi lawe, Lord of
mercy and of charite. ²⁵⁰

And ful ofte tymes I haue praisid boþe men and
wommen *and* oþere þingis of þis world moore þan þei
weren worþi; *and* lackide men *and* wommen *and* oþere
þingis of þis world, seiynge hem to be yuele, whanne
þei weren gode; or ellis weren not so yuel as I ²⁵⁵
deemedede |hem to be. Wherefore, my good Lord Ihesu [fol. 159^a]
Crist, me lakide a Trynyte of þi lawe: discrecioun,
pite *and* charite.

Also good Lord, ofte tymes haue I schewid me wilfully

236 falsnessis] falsnes C. 237 perfiȝte] perfiȝte C. 241 ȝit] ȝet C. 242
turneþ] turnynge C. 245 doon not] not doo C. 246 ful ofte] om. C.
252 þan] þen C. 255 yuel] euel C. 259 haue I shewid] I haue shewyd C.

²⁶⁰ oþerwise *and* betir outward, þan I haue be inward,
boþe in cuntenaunce, *in* word *and* werk : to make men
deeme *and* lye on me, þat I was betir, holier and trewer
þan I was : as a fals ypocryt disseyuynge manye *and*
my silf moost.

²⁶⁵ A, my good Ihesu, what schal I do? Truly, Lord,
what schal I do I woot not, but if þi greet *grace*, þat
is þi messenger, *praie* pyte þi porter, þat he wolde
opene þe 3ate charyte : þat I my3te entre in to þe brood
bosome of þi *mercy* ; for I, as a fals trauant fleynge þe
²⁷⁰ profitable teching of his maister, haue fled away fro
[fol. 159^b] þin hoolsum, ne-|deful, leeful *and* profitable doctryn
of þi blessid lawe ; for I, as a rebel *and* vnkynde child,
brekyng þe bidding of his bodili fadir, haue broke þin
nyneþe heest, þat art my cheef goostli fadir. For in
²⁷⁵ þis heest þou forbeed me to coueyte my nei3boris
spouse : *and* þat haue I broke *in* o degre or oþer.
Wherfore I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist, *mercy*.

A, Lord God, *mercy* : for I haue broke also þi tenþe
heest. For I haue coueitide my nei3boris goodis
²⁸⁰ wrongfully, as gold, siluer, good, catel, beestis, seruauantis,
hous, lond, *and* oþer *maner* of catel, ful ofte. How
ofte, how manye tymes, how greuousli *and* how greetly,
in alle þin heestis *and* a3ein alle þin heestis, God, *and*
so greuousli, so often willyngli *and* wityngely : þat I

260 inward] inwart C. 264 silf] self C. 267 wolde] wolle C. 270 haue]
han C. 271 hoolsum] holsom C. leeful] *om.* C. (fol. 56^b, line 24).
272 of þi] and þat C. 273 bidding] biddingis C. 276 in o] eiper in oo
C. 278 þi] þe C. 284 so often] and so ofte C. 285 it] *om.* C. 287

can it not telle ne þinke. |Wherfore þu, hiȝ Kyng of ²⁸⁵ [fol. 160^a]
 blis, piteuous *gracious and merciful* Lord: haue pyte
and mercy upon me þi pore exilid creature, *and graunte*
 me a chartir of *pardoun*: to come to my kynde heritage
 þat is þe lond of lijf, þat I am flemyd out of, þoru
 myn abhomynable lyuyng, þou þat lyuest *and regnest* ²⁹⁰
 Lord Kyng, God *and* Man *in* to worldis of worldis, amen.

Here bigynnen fyue bodily wittis.

O þou hiȝ excellent Lord God: lowly to þee I
 knowleche, þat my fyue wittis I haue myspendid: whiche
 ben þese: heerynge, seyng, smellynge, tastyng *and* ²⁹⁵
 handlynge.

Wiþ myn eeris I haue mys-herd þo þingis þat
 displesen þee: þat harmeþ *and* hyndriþ myn euencristen
with ioie and not wiþ sorowe.

Wiþ myn iȝen I |haue mys-seen ofte manye vanytees: ³⁰⁰ [fol. 160^b]
 þat þou hast forfendid me *in* manye a place of þi lawe,
 whiche veyn siȝtis han drawe me fro þee vnto myn
 aduersarie þe deuel, as bi leccherie, bi *pride*, bi mys-
 coueityng, *and* manye oþere synnes þat I haue fallen
 yune for myn abidyng siȝt; also I drede me, Lord, leste ³⁰⁵
 I haue be cause of manye oon fallyng fro *vertues*

upon] on C. 289 of] om. C. 292 Here bigynnen . . . wittis] om. C.
 Quintus Sensus *written in margin* C. 293 þee] we *written after þe but*
expunged and crossed C. 296 handlyng] touchyng or h. C (fol. 57^a, line 22).
 297 eeris] heerys C. 300 iȝen] eiȝen C. 306 be] ben C. dide] dede C.

to vicis; for, gracious God, I schulde haue lokid *in* to
 þe goodnes of þee *and* of þi werkis, þat þou hast
 ordeyned for mankynde, *with* worschip *and* reuerence,
 310 but I dide it not. Wherefore I crie þee mercie, my
 Lord Ihesu Crist.

With my nose haue I mys-smellid þingis lusty to þe
 flesh, þat han drawe me to *synne* moore þan to swetnes
 of *vertues*.

[fol. 161^a] 315 *With* my tunge I haue mys-|tastid *and* mys-spoke in
 ful manye a tyme; often tymes haue I mys-tastid *and*
 mys-spoke in ful manye a tyme: manye tymes haue I
 mys-tastid ouer-lusty mete *and* drinke, *and* moore take
 it for lust þan for nede of bodily sustenaunce; *and* wiþ
 320 my tunge I haue spoke ydili, wickidli *and* falsli. Wherefore
 I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist, *mercy*.

Wiþ myn hondis I haue mys-handlid, *and* manye a
 tyme ful myche mys-doon, for I haue handlid *and*
 touchid, þat I schulde not touche ne handle. I haue
 325 not do þe gode deedis þat I myȝte haue do wiþ hondis,
 to þe worschip of þee God *and* profiȝt of myn
 euencristen. Wherefore I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist,
mercy.

With my feet I haue mys-goon in to placis manye
 [fol. 161^b] 330 |oon þat I schulde not haue go, *and* slouȝ to go *in* to
 gode placis as it *perteyneþ* to me: as to chirche *and* to

312 haue I] I haue C. 313 han] haue C. 316 often] many C. 317-18
 and mys-spoke . . . mystastid] *om.* C. (fol. 57^b, line 14). 320 falsli] foolely
 C. 324 not] haue *add. above the line C* (fol. 57^b, line 21). 325 hondis]
 handis C. 330 go¹] goon C. 331 to chirche] to þe chirche C. 333 praisen]

oþere placis þat ben solitarie, forto *præie* to þee, God,
 praisen *and* þanken; also I haue be slou3 to go to myn
 euencristen to *cumforte* hem in her nede of siiknessis
and oþere dissesis. Wherefore I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu 335
Crist, mercy.

Wiþ myn herte I haue mys-þou3t ofte: ydil þou3tis,
 wickide þou3tis, harmynge þou3tis, *proude* þou3tis,
 wraþful þou3tis, enuyouse þou3tis, *and* leccherouse
 þou3tis; and I haue nott þou3t on *vertues* forto lerne 340
 hem, to kepe hem *and* to vse hem: as of mekenes,
 pacience, charite, stidefast bileeue, *and* alle oþere *vertues*,
 aftir þe teching *and* þe blessid ensaumple 3euynge of
 þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist.

Here bigynnen þe seuene werkis of bodily mercy. 345

| Fede þe hungry; 3eue drinke to þe þirsti; cloþe þe [fol. 162^a]
 nakid *and* nedy; herborowe þe pore houslees *and* nedy;
cumforte þe siike; visyte prisoners. O, þou hi3 Kyng
 of blis, benygne, piteuous, gracious *and* merciful Lord
 God and Maker of mankynde, *mercy, mercy!* I crie to 350
 þee, Lord God and Man. I crie *mercy* for my silf;
mercy I crie for alle my frendis; *and* *mercy* for alle
 men qwike *and* dede; for truly Lord I trowe, þere was
 ne is ne neuere schal be but fewe, þat þei ne han

praysynge C. þanken] þankyng C. 334 siiknessis] syknes C. 335-36
 ihesu crist] god C. 342 stidefast] stedfast C. 346 Here bigynnen . . .
 mercy] *Septem opera misericordie* corporalia C. 346 þirsti] þristi C. 347
 herborowe] herberow C. 348 siike] seek C. 351 silf] selfe C. 354

³⁵⁵ errid, erren and schulen erre, in doynge þese deedis of
 mercy. O, Lord! and þou wolte axe a-countis of hem
 at þe dreedful day of doom, of ech man; and þo þat
 han doon hem as is declarid aftir, schulen resseyue þi
 [fol. 162^b] mercy, *and* regne wiþ þee |in þi kyngdom, and þei þat
³⁶⁰ han not doon it in þe foorme þat sueþ aftir, or ellis
 doon it not, schulen resseyue þi straiþt riþtwisnes medlid
 sumwhat wiþ mercy in þi prisoun helle, where deuelis
 schulen regne wiþ hem in to worldis of worldis, amen.
 O, Lord! *In* what foorme owiþ it to be doon? Truli,
³⁶⁵ Lord, I trowe aftir þin owne teching, for, Lord, þou
 seist in þi lawe: be þe merciful as þoure Fadir of
 heuene is merciful. A, Lord! and in anoþer place þou
 seist: þou moste forþeue of al þin herte. O, Lord! it is
 hard to an erþeli man, but not to an heuenli man, to do
³⁷⁰ þe deedis of mercy. O, Lord! Bihouep þis be þe
 bigymnyng of oure almes-deede doynge? þhe truly, Lord,
 [fol. 163^a] I trowe; and as þou art ful of myþt *and* power, to |do
 it myþtily, mawgrey þe wille of þe flesch, *and* alle
 goostli enemyes; *and* as þou art large in alle þi þiftis,
³⁷⁵ þou wilt it be do largely, aftir mennys hauynge, *and*
 aftir þat nede is; and as þou art ful of prudence or
 warnes, þou wilt it be do warly; *and* as þou art ful of

han] haue C. 355 schulen] shall C. 356 wolte] wolde C. 357 ech]
 yche C. 360 it] hem C. foorme] fourme C. 360-61 ellis doon it not]
 ellis þat doon hem not C. schulen] shall C. (*fol. 58^b, line 1*). 362 prisoun]
 of *add.* C. 363 schulen] shall C. hem] hym C. amen] *om.* C. 364
 foorme] fourme C. owiþ] suiþe C. (*fol. 58^b, line 4*). 373 mawgrey]
 magrey C. all] *om.* C. 374 þiftis] þeftes C. 375 do] don C. (*in the*
same way, where La has þtc. þt do, C has either don or done : 375, 377, 378,
379, 382, 384, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390 ; 380, 381). 377 wilt] wolt C.

discrecioun, þou wilt it be do discreetli; and as þou
 art ful of mekenes, þou wilt it be do mekely; and as
 þou art ful of pacience, þou wilt it be do patiently; ³⁸⁰
 and as þou art ful of riȝtwisnes, þou wilt it be do
 riȝtwisly; and as þou art ful of truþe, þou wilt it be
 do truly; and as þou art ful of witt, þou wilt it be do
 wityngli; *and* as þou art ful of wisdom, þou wilt it be [fol. 163^b]
 do wisely; and as þou art ful of good wille, þou wilt ³⁸⁵
 it be do willyngly; and as þou art ful of goodnes, þou
 wilt it be do goodli; *and* as þou art ful of pyte, þou
 wilt it be do piteuousli; and as þou art ful of *mercy*,
 þou wilt it be do *mercifully*; and as þou art ful of
 charite, þou wilt it be do *charitably*; and as þou art ³⁹⁰
 ful of *resoun*, þou wilt þese deedis be doon *in resoun*,
 bi *resoun and with resoun*. O, Lord, þese deedis of *mercy*
 ben but vii *in noumbre*, and esy *in spekyng*e, but truly,
 Lord, þei ben wel hard in doynge to an erþeli man, but
 not to an heuenli man. A, Lord! Wher þese þingis ³⁹⁵
 suffisen not to þee, to do hem þus as it is bifore seid?
 No truli, Lord, I trowe. It *pertheyneþ* me moore to do,
 for it bihoueþ me by pite *and* charite, to |styre oþere [fol. 164^a]
 men to do þe same: as I wolde oþere men stiriden oþere ⁴⁰⁰
 in refreischyng of me if I were in þe same caas of
 nede, bi þi lawe, Lord ful of pyte, *mercy and* charite.
 O, Lord Ihesu Crist, to þee fully I knowleche, þat I

382-83 and as þoru art . . . riȝtwisly] *written twice La (fol. 163^a, lines 14-16)*
and the second passage expunged and crossed. 395 wher þese] for þe C (fol.
 59^a, line 9). 399 to] and C. styre] stere C. 400 stiriden] stired C.
 402 þi] þe C. 403 han] haue C. 406 Here bigynnen . . . mercy] *Septem*

follischly, recheleesly *and* vnkyndeli han doon þese deedis
of mercy. Wherefore, my Lord God, my Maker and myn
405 Azeinbier, lowli wiþ herte *and* mouþ, I crye þee mercy.

Here bigynnen þe vii deedis of goostli mercy.

Teche, counceile, chastise or repreue, cumfort, forzeue,
suffre and preie.

O Lord, I haue not tauzt vnkunnyng þi blessid lawe
410 aftir þe witt þat þou hast lent me to vse to þi
worschip, *and* profizt to me *and* to alle oþere.

O Lord, I haue not counceilid to fle vicis *and* use
[fol. 164^b] vertues, for dreede or for necligence eiþer |for wantynge
of charite.

415 O Lord, I haue not do my bisynes to chastise þo, þat
ben vndir my power *and* breken þin lawe: neiþer to
lette oþer by al her myzt.

O Lord, I haue not cumfortid hem þat were in goostly
myscheef, as I schulde haue do, boþe by word *and*
420 deede.

O Lord, I haue not forzeue wrongis, repreues *and*
lesyngis, þat men han doon to me.

O Lord, I haue not suffrid mekeli, pacientli and
charitably *after* þe ensauple and teching of þee, my
425 Lord Ihesu Crist.

O Lord, I haue not alle tymes preied for myn enemyes
and for alle trespassouris azens me, as þou me techist

opera misericordie spiritualia. C. 409 blessid] blissid C. lent] sent C. (fol. 59^a, line 23). 411 profizt] profite C. 415 bisynes] besynes C. 417 her] my C. 424 charitably] charitabily C. 427 me techist] techist me C. (fol.

in þi lawe; wherfore I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu Crist,
 mercy. For alle þingis þat I haue trespassid ynne
 aʒens þee, my Lord God, my Saueour *and* myn ⁴³⁰
 Aʒeynbier, *in* þe vii deedli synnes: or ony of her
 spicis; in þi ten co-|maundementis þat I haue not kepte [fol. 165^a]
 my fyue wittis yuel spendid, seuene deedis of *merci*
 bodili *and* goostli not fulfild, but ofte moore *and* worse
 þan I can telle: þe cause of my negligence I am aknowe ⁴³⁵
 þat I haue synned; wherfore I crie þee, my Lord Ihesu
 Crist, mercy, þat I principally haue trespassid to; and
 to þee, þou blessid Modir of my Lord Ihesu Crist wiþ
 al þe cumpany of heuene, *mercy*; *and* þou Chirche
 slepyng in purgatorye, *and* þou fiʒtyng Chirche in þis ⁴⁴⁰
 world, to which I haue trespassid *in* þouʒt, word and
 deede, *mercy*; and þou Lord to whom stretchiþ al þe
 trespas: *mercy*, Lord God, *mercy*. ~A~M~E~N.

Here eendiþ a Cristen mannys confessyoun; þe which
is also a deuoute Orisoun ~ ~ ~ 445

59^b, line 9). 431 or ony] or in ony C. her] hir C. 433 yuel] euel C.
 spendid] despended C. 434 fulfild] fulfillid C. worse] wers C. 440
 fiʒtyng] fityng C. 441 word] in worde C. 444-45 Heer eendiþ . . .
 Orisoun] *om.* C.