

dydden. Then on þe morow, for Porphirius had buryed þe qwene, he was taken and a hundret knyghtes of hys felawes, and weron beheduth¹, ych for Goddys sake.

Then þe Emperoure spake fayre to Kateryn, and byhet hur þat 4 he wold wed hur, and do to hur all þe worschyppe þat he cowth, yf scho wold forsake Cryst and leue on his goddys. But for scho sette noght by hym ne by his goddes, he made forto smyt of hur hed. Then when þe hed was smytten of, ynstyd of blod ran out 8 whyt mylke. And anon þerwyth come angeles, and token hyr body, and beren hit vp ynto þe eyre, and soo forth xx^{ti} dayes iourne pennys to þe mownt of² Synay, and þer buryet hit wyth gret worschyp wher God haþe wroght³ mony gret myracles, and zet doþe 12 ynto þys day.

Narracio.

I rede of a woman þat fyrst seruet Saynt Kateryn, and fast hur euen, as mony don, but aftyr scho laft of. Then yn a vysyon scho 16 saw a company of fayre maydens comyng by hur, and among hom was on passyng all yn beute. But when scho come by þat on, scho hudde hor face, and wold not loke on hur. Then askyd ho won of hom þat come byhynd whad þay wer. Þen sayde scho þat þay 20 wern all seyntys of Heuen, 'and þat was Kateryn þat hudde hur face from þe, and wold not know þe, for encheson þat þou hast laft
158 a þe knowlech of hur.' Then this || woman repentyd and turned aþeyne to hyr deuocyon þat scho had don befor, and was a trew 24 seruand to Kateryn euer aftyr, and had þe blysse of Heuen to hyr mede. Þe wech blysse þrogh þe prayer of Seynt Kateryn God geue⁴ you and me. Amen.

68.

DE DEDICACIONE ECCLESIE SERMO BREUIS.

28

Goode men and woymen, such a day N. 3e schull haue your chyrche-halyday. Þe wech day 3e schull come to chyrch to worschyp God, hauyng yn mynde⁵ þre causes why þe chyrche ys halowed: on for the chyrch-clansyng, and for deuot prayng, and 32

¹ and weron beheduth C. he let smyt of her hedys G.

² of d. D. om. G.

³ MS. worght. wrought d. wrought D.

⁴ geue inserted above the line.

⁵ aftyr mynde the word of is inserted in the margin in red ink.

for þe dede-buriyng. Mony othyr causes byn why þe chyrch ys halowet, but of þes þre we schull as þys tyme say, so as God ȝeueþ grace.

- 4 Furst hit was halowet for hur owne clansyng ; for þe chyrch ys a place ordeynet þat cryston pepull schull come togedyr yn charyte, forto worschyp hor God yn rest and yn pees, ych on wyth othyr. Then ys God fayn of hom, and cometh to hom, and ȝeueþ
- 8 hom hys blessing, and walketh among hom, and ys wondyr fayn of hom, and dwellyth wyth hom, whyll þay ben yn rest and yn pes, ych wyth othyr. But when þe fende seyth this, þen ys he sory, and schoweþe all hys malyce forto asay, ȝif he mow by
- 12 hymselfe oþer by any oþer of hys dyscypoles forto bryng hom out of charyte, and make debate and dyscencyon among hom, and so forto dryve God away from hom : for well I wot þat God ys not
- þeras debate and dyscencyon ys. Then, for our holy fadyrs knew
- 16 hys maners and his malyce, þay ordeynet þe chyrch to be halowet ; and so, by holy prayer and halowyng, scho ys clanset of þe fende and of hys malyce, and he hath no power aftyr forto come ynto þe chyrch, but hit so be þat som wykkyd lyuer þat ys belafte wyth
- 20 þe fende, bryng hym ynto þe chyrche wyth hym ; for als longe as a || man oþer woman ys out of charite, þe fend ys yn hym and 158 b
- habe power ouer hym. Then, forto schewe you how þe fende ys dryuen out of þe chyrche by halowyng, I tell you þys ensampull
- 24 þat I fynde wrytton yn 'Legenda Aurea,' and Saynt Gregory rehersuth hit yn his boke þat ys callet 'Dyalogus.'

Narracio.

He sayth þat, when a chyrch was halowed, and relekys of sayntys

28 broght þedyryn, sodenly a swyne ran among þe pepullys fete, hedyr and þedyr, and so ȝode out of þe chyrch-dorre and was sene no mor aftyr. Thus God schewed opynly how þe fende by halowyng of þe chyrch was dryuen out of hur. And forto schew

32 how sory he was forto lese his habytacyon, þe fende com aȝeyne þe nyght aftyr, and ran on þe chyrch wyth suche noyse, þat he fered all þe pepull þat herden hit. And þe secunde nyght he come aȝeyne, and made a more hydwes noyse ; and þe þryd nyght he

36 made a noyse, as all þe chyrch hadden fallen downe at ones, and þen went he forthe and come no more aȝeyne.

The chyrche ys also halowet for deuout prayng. I hope þat 3e all¹ prayen well at hom yn your houses. For, as Seynt Austeyn seyth, a good dede ys a good prayer; so, whyll þat a man doþe well, he prayth well. But 3et, when any of you wyll speke wyth⁴ hys frende for any spedfull thyng, he goth home to his howse, hopyng wel þat he woll make hym þer bettyr chere þen yn any othir place. Then ryght so, when 3e woll speke wyth God, comyth to hys howse and þer spekyth wyth hym, þat ys, holy chyrche; 8 for whill a man prayeþe, he spekyth wyth God, and whyll he redyþe, God spekyth wyth hym.

But for mony of you wyttuþe nocht how 3e schull pray to God, þe setting of þe chyrch hyt tellyþe you: Hit ys sette yn þe est, 12 techyng yche man, when he praythe, to haue his hert ynto þe est, and thenke þat paradyse ys yn þe est. Wherfor 3e schull pray God deuotly þat he haue compassyon of you, þat ben exilet out of
 159 a your eritage || by males of your enmyes, and 3eue you grace to 16 dyscomfet your enemy, so þat God yn your deyng send his angell, and fach your soules ynto paradyse a3eyne ynto þat blysse þat 3e losten by your old-fadyrs trespas. Also 3e schull thenke how þat Crist deyd yn þe est on þe crosse; wherfor 3e schull pray deuotly 20 to hym þat he 3eue you grace, forto thenke on þe passyon, þat 3e be worthy, to be wrytton yn þe nowmbur of hom þat he deyt for on þe crosse. Also þenke þat Cryst schall com out of þe est to þe dome; wherfor 3e schull pray to hym to 3eue you such contrisyon 24 of hert for your mys-dedys, and apon scheryft wyth mowthe and satysfaccyon yn dede, þat 3e may be² sure forto stond on Cristys ryght hond yn þat dome, and scape þat horrybull rebuke þat schall be done to hom þat schall be dampnet for hor gret hert þat woll 28 not be sory for hor mys-dedes, ne aske no mercy yn tyme of mercy. For suche deuot prayers holy chyrch was halowed; for God hymselfe sayth þus: 'My howse ys an house of oresons.' But more harme ys, now hit ys made an hous of dadull, and of whisperyng 32 and rownyng, and of spekyng of vanyte and of oper fylthe.

Wherfor I rede þat, as³ an holy byschop was at his masse, his deken turnet forto byd þe pepull bowe hom to þe blessing; þen he sygh too woymen rowne togedyr, and þe fende sate on hor schuldyrs, 36

¹ all inserted above the line.² be C. om. G.³ as C. om. G.

wrytyng on a long roll als fast as he myght. Then aftyr masse, by byddying of þys deken, þe byschop send aftyr þes woymen, and asket hom how þay had occupyet þe masse tyme. Þen sayd þay
 4 how þay haddyn sayde hor 'Pater Noster.' Then þe bischop com-
 mawndet þe fende forto rede þat he had wrytton, and when he had
 red¹ all þat þay hadden talked of, þay fellen downe to þe grownde
 and asked mercy.

8 Holy chyrch ys also halowet for þe long restyng; for when any
 lyfe ys dede, þen ys he broght to þe chyrche to hys longe home.
 For, as Seynt Ion Belet saythe, som tyme ryche || men wern on
 hylles toppes buried², and at þe fote, and yn þe sydes yn towmbys
 12 makut yn þe roche of þe hulle, and³ pore men werne buried at 159 b
 home in hor owne howses. But for þe sauor and þe odure of þe
 cors was soo greues to hom þat lyued, þerfor holy fadyrs ordeynet
 chyrch-zeordys, and þe cors to be broght þedyr and buried þer for
 16 two skylles: on, forto be prayde fore for euermore, for holy chirche
 vsyth forto pray for all þat restype yn þat chyrch oþer yn þe
 chyrch-þorde; anoþyr for þe bodyes of þe ded schuld lye þer wyth-
 out trauelyng oþir vexyng of þe fende. Wherfor þe fende haþe no
 20 power forto do noght to no body þat ys buryed yn cristen burynes,
 but hit so be þat he haue soo trespass, þat he be not worthy forto
 be þer. For Ion Belette telleth how þat non schuld be buryed yn
 þe chirche but þe patrons þat defendyth þe chyrch, and prestes
 24 and clerkes þat defendyn þe chyrch fro gostly enmyes wyth hor
 prayers, and othir patrons þat defendyth hor chyrche fro bodely
 enmyes. For suche haue ben buryed yn chyrche, þat yn þe morow
 þe cors haue ben fownden cast out of þe chyrche, and all þe cloþes
 28 laft yn þe burynes.

Narracio.

Also an angell com to þe wardeyne of a chyrche, and bade hym
 goo to þe byschop, and byd hym do out of þe chyrche hym þat he
 32 had buryed þeryn, oþyr he schuld be ded hymselfe wythyn xxxii
 dayes aftyr. And so he was, for he wold not do as he was
 beden.

¹ red *C.* wrytten *G.*

² buried *C.* om. *G.*

³ and *C.* an *G.*