

PLAY THIRTY-SIX- Mortificacio Christi (Death of Christ)

(The Butchers)

PILATUS Cease, signors, and see what I say,
Takes (at)tent to my talking entire.
Devoid all this din here this day,
And fall to my friendship in *feere.
Sir Pilate, a prince without peer,
My name is full nevenly to neven

(*Fellowship? Fear?)

(*unclear- lit. "namely to name", but possibly "refreshing to hear")

And *doomsman full dearworth in deed.
Of gentlest Jewry full even
Am I.
Who makes oppression
Or does transgression,
By my discretion
Shall be deemed duly to die.

(*judge)

To die shall I doom them, to dead,
Those rebels that rules them unright.
Who that to yon hill will take heed
May see there the *sooth in his sight,
How doleful to dead they are *dight
That *liste not our laws for to **lere.
Lo, thus be my *main and my might
Those churls shall I chastise and cheer
By law.

(*truth)

(*prepared, made ready)

(*likes) (**learn, obey)

(*power)

*Ilke felon false
Shall hang by the *halse,
Transgressors als(o)
On the cross shall be knit for to *know.

(*each, every)

(*neck)

(i.e. to be seen/known as an example)

To know shall I knit them on cross;
To *shend them with shame shall I shape,
Their lives for to lose is no loss,
Such *tyrants with *teene for to trap.
Thus loyally the law I *unlap
And punish them piteously.
Of Jesu I hold it *unhappe
That he on yon hill hung so high
For guilt.
His blood to spill
Took ye you *till,
Thus was your will

(*break, destroy)

(*bullies, ruffians) (*pain)

(*open, unroll)

(*unhappy)

(*to)

Full piteously to speed he were *spilt. (*killed, destroyed)

CAIPHAS To spill him we spoke in a *speed, (*speed, success)
For false he followed in *faie, (*death, or possibly spells)
With frauds our folk *gan he *fed (*got) (*e.g. with spiritual foods)
And laboured to learn them his *laye. (*law, teachings)

ANNA Sir Pilate, of peace we you pray,
Our law was full like to be *lorne. (*lost)
He saved not our dear Sabbath day,
And that for to (e)scape it were a scorn,
By law.

PILATUS Sirs, before your sight
With all my might
I examined him right,
And cause none in him could I know.

CAIPHAS Ye know well the cause, sir, in case:
It touched treason untrue.
The *tribute to take or to trace (*i.e. taxes)
Forbade he, our *bale for to brew. (*punishment)

ANNA Of *japes yet jangled yon Jew, (*tricks)
And cursedly he called him a king.
To doom him to dead it is due,
For treason it touches that thing
Indeed.

CAIPHAS Yet principle
And worst of all,
He got him call
God's Son, that foul *mote him speed. (*must)

PILATUS He speeds for to spill in *space, (*a short moment)
So wonderly wrought is your will;
His blood shall your bodies embrace,
For that have ye taken you *till. (*to)

ANNA That *fore-word full **fayne to fulfil (*promise) (**gladly)
Indeed shall we *dresse us **bedene; (*array, dress) (**immediately)
Yon *losell him likes full ill, (*rogue, rascal)
For turned is his *trantis all to **tene, (*tricks) (**harm, pain)
I *trow. (*trust, believe)

CAYPHAS He called him king,

Ill joy him wring.
Ya, let him hang,
Full madly on the moon for to moo.

ANNA To moo on the moon has he *mente. (*moaned)
Wey, fie on thee, *faitour in **faye! (*fraud) (**spells, tricks)
Who *trowes thou to thy tales took (at)tent? (*thinks)
Thou *saggard, thyself *gan thou say, (*boaster, sagging person) (**did)
The Temple destroy thee today,
By the third day were done *ilka **dele, (*each, every) (**thing)
To raise it thou should thee array.
Lo', how was thy **falsehood to feel,
Foul fall thee!
For thy presumption
Thou has thy *warisoune; (*reward, payment)
Do fast come down,
And a *comely king shall I call thee. (*handsome)

CAYPHAS I call thee a coward to *ken (*know)
That marvels and miracles made.
Thou mustered among many men,
But, *brothell, thou **bourded to brade. (*sinner) (**joked) (trick, twist)
Thou saved them from sorrows, they said:
To save now thyself let us see;
God Son if thou *grathely be **grayde, (*readily) (**prepared)
Deliver thee down off that tree
Anon.
If thou be *funne (*found)
Thou be God's Son,
We shall be *bonne (*bound)
To *trowe on thee truly, **ilkone. (*trust) (**each one)

ANNA Sir Pilate, your pleasance we pray,
Take (at)tent to our talking this tide
And wipe ye yon writing away:
It is not best it abide.
It suits you to set it aside,
And set that he said in his *saw, (*sayings)
As he that was print(ed) full of pride,
"Jew's king am I," *comely to know, (*splendid, stately)
Full plain.

PILATUS *Quod scripsi, scripsi.* [What I have written, I have written.]
Yon same wrote I;
I bide thereby,
What *gadling will grucche there again. (*scoundrel, bastard) (**complain)_

JESUS Thou man that of *mis here has meant, (*sin, wickedness)
 To me (at)tent entirely thou take.
 On *rood am I ragged and rent, (*rod, i.e. cross)
 Thou sinful soul, for thy sake.
 For thy *mis amends will I make. (*sin, misdeeds)
 My back for to bend, here I bide;
 This *teene for thy trespass I take.
 Who could thee more kindness have *kydde (*told, made known)
 Than I?
 Thus for thy good
 I shed my blood.
 Man, mend thy mood,
 For full bitter thy bliss *mon I by. (*must)

MARIA Alas, for my sweet Son I say,
 That dolefully to dead thus is *dight. (*prepared)
 Alas, for full lovely thou lay
 In my womb, this worthily *wight. (*soul, man)
 Alas, that I should see this sight
 Of my Son so seemly to see.
 Alas, that this blossom so bright
 Untruly is tugged to this tree,
 Alas!
 My lord, my life,
 With full great grief
 Hangs as a thief.
 Alas, he did never trespass.

JESUS Thou woman, do way of thy weeping,
 For me may thou nothing amend;
 My Father's will to be working,
 For mankind my body I bend.

MARIA Alas, that thou likes not to *lende, (*live)
 How should I but weep for thy woe?
 To *care now my comfort is *kenned. (*sorrow, grief) (**made known)
 Alas, why should we twin thus in two
 Forever?

JESUS Woman, instead of me,
 Lo, John thy son shall be.
 John, see to thy mother free,
 For my sake do thou thy *devere. (*duty)

MARIA Alas, Son, sorrow and *sighte (*prob. sighs, but possibly sight)

That me were closed in clay,
A sword of sorrow me smite,
To dead I were done this day.

JOHANNES Ah, mother, so shall ye not say,
I pray you be peace in this *press, (*crowd)
For with all the might that I may
Your comfort I *cast to increase (*plan, forecast)
Indeed.
Your son am I,
Lo, here ready,
And now forthy
I pray you hence for to speed.

MARIA My *steven for to **stede or to steer, (*voice) (**i.e. stop and control)
How should I such sorrow to see:
My Son that is dearworthy and dear
Thus doleful a dead for to die.

JOHANNES
Ah, dear mother, *blynne of this **blee; (*diminish) (**blow, i.e. wail, cry out)
Your mourning it may not amend.

MARIA CLEOPHE Ah, Marie, take trust unto thee,
For succour to thee will he send
This tide.

JOHANNES Fair mother, fast
Hence let us *cast. (*go, depart)

MARIA 'Til he be past
Will I *busk here **baynly to bide. (*prepare) (**humbly)

JESUS With bitter-full *bale have I bought, (*torment, pain)
Thus, man, all thy *misse for to mend, (*sins, misdeeds,)
On me for to look let thou not
How *baynly my body I bend. (*obediently, humbly)
No *wight in this world would have **weened (*soul, human) (**understood)
What sorrow I suffer for thy sake.
Man, cast thee thy kindness be *kenned, (*known- or possibly "alike")
True (at)tent unto me that thou take
And trust.
For foxes their dens have they
Birds has their nests to pay,
But the Son of Man this day
Has not on his head for to rest.

LATRO A SINISTRIS If thou be God's Son so free,
Why hang thou thus on this hill?
To save now thyself let us see,
And us now, that speeds for to *spill. (*be killed)

LATRO A DEXTRIS Man, stint of thy *steven and be still, (*shouting)
For doubtless thy God dreads thou not;
Full well are we worthy *theretill. (*thereto)
Unwisely wrong have we wrought,
*Iwisse. (*I know, I believe)
None ill did he
Thus for to die.
Lord, have mind of me
When thou art come to thy bliss.

JESUS *Forsooth, son, to thee shall I say, (*in truth)
Since thou from thy folly will fall,
With me shall dwell now this day
In paradise place principal.
Heloy! heloy!
My God, my God, full free,
Lama zabatanye,
Whereto forsook thou me,
In care?
And I did never ill
This dead for to go til,
But be it at thy will.
Ah, me thirsts sore.

GARCIO A drink shall I *dress thee indeed, (*prepare)
A draught that is full daintily *dight, (*made, prepared)
Full fast shall I spring for to speed.
I hope I shall hold that I have *hight. (*promised)

CAYPHAS Sir Pilate, that most is of might,
Hark, "Heely" now heard I him cry;
He *weens that that worthily **wight (*believes) (**person)
In haste for to help him in hie
In his need.

PILATUS If he do so,
He shall have woe.

ANNA He were our foe
If he *dress him to do us that deed. (*asked, tried)

GARCIO That deed for to (ad)dress if he do,
 In *sertis he shall rue it full sore. (*certainty)
 Nevertheless, if he like it not, lo,
 Full soon may he cover that care. (*deliverance, i.e. released from his pain)
 Now sweet sir, your will if it were,
 A draught here of drink have I *dressed (*prepared)
 To speed for no (ex)pence that ye spare,
 But boldly ye *bib it for the best (*imbibe, drink)
 For why
 Hazel and gall
 Is *menged with all. (*mixed)
 Drink it ye shall.
 Your lips, I (be)hold them full dry.

JESUS Thy drink it shall do me no *deere, (*harm)
 Wit thou well, thereof will I none.
 Now, Father, that formed all in *fere, (*fellowship, togetherness)
 To thy most might make I my moan.
 Thy will have I wrought in this *wone. (*place)
 Thus ragged and rent on this *rood, (*rod, cross)
 Thus dolefully to dead have they done.
 Forgive them by grace that is good,
 They nay *wot not what it was. (*know)
 My Father, hear my boon,
 For now all thing is done.
 My spirit to thee right soon
 Commend I *in manus tuas*. [into your hands]

MARIA Now, dear Son, Jesus so *jente, (*gentle)
 Since my heart is heavy as lead,
 One word would I *wit ere thou went. (*know)
 Alas, now my dear Son is dead.
 Full ruefully (be)reft is my *rede. (*comfort, advise)
 Alas, for my darling so dear.

JOHANNES Ah mother, ye hold up your head
 And sigh not with sorrows so *sere, (*severe)
 I pray.

MARIA CLEOPHE It does her pain
 To see him *tyne. (*harmed)
 Lead we her *heyne, (*away, hence)
 This mourning help her nay may.

CAIPHAS Sir Pilate, perceive, I you pray,

Our customs to keep well ye can.
 Tomorrow is our dear Sabbath day,
 Of mirth must us move *ilke a man. (*every, each)
 Yon *warlous now waxes full *wan, (*warlocks, traitors) (*dark)
 And needs must they buried be.
 Deliver their dead, sir, and then
 Shall we (pur)sue to our said solemnity
 Indeed.

PILATE It shall be done,
 In words *fone. (*few)
 Sir knights, go soon
 To yon *harlots you **hendely take heed. (*frauds, thieves) (**quickly, skillfully)
 Those *caitiffs thou kill with thy knife; (*captives)
 *Delivere, have done, they were dead. (*dutifully)

MILES My lord, I shall *lenghe so their life (*lengthen?)
 That those *brothels shall never bite bread. (*sinners)

PILATUS Ser *Longeus, step forth in this **stead. (*Longinus) (**place)
 This spear, lo, have hold in thy hand,
 To Jesus thou rake forth I *rede (*command, advise)
 And *stead not but stiffly thou stand (*rest, wait)
 A *stounde. (*pain, place)
 In Jesu side
 Shove it this tide;
 No longer bide,
 But *grathely thou go to the ground. (*prepared)

LONGEUS LATUS O, maker unmade, full of might.
 O, Jesu so gentle and *gent, (*noble, fair)
 That suddenly has lent me my sight.
 Lord, loving to thee be it lent.
 On *rood art thou ragged and rent (*rod, cross)
 Mankind for to mend of his *mis. (*sins, misdeeds)
 Full piteously spilt is and spent
 Thy blood, Lord, to bring us to bliss
 Full free.
 A, mercy my succour,
 Mercy, my treasure,
 Mercy my Saviour,
 Thy mercy be marked in me.

CENTERIO O, wonderful worker *iwis, (*known)
 This weather is waxen full *wan, (*dark)
 True token I *trow that it is (*trust, believe)

That mercy is meant unto man.
 Full clearly conceive thus I can
 No cause in this course could they know,
 Yet doleful they *demed him then (*doomed, judged)
 To lose thus his life by their law,
 No right.
 Truly I say,
 God's Son *verray (*in truth)
 Was he this day
 That dolefully to dead thus is *dight. (*ordered, prepared)

JOSEPH [OF ARIMATHEA]

That Lord loyal *ay-lasting in land, (*ever-lasting)
 Sir Pilate, full pressed in this *press, (*crowd)
 He save thee by sea and by sand,
 And all that is dearworth on *dais. (*i.e. on the waggon-stage)

PILATUS Joseph, this is loyally no less;
 To me art thou welcome *iwisse. (*surely)
 Do say me the *sooth ere thou cease, (*truth)
 Thy worthily will what it is
 Anon.

JOSEPH To thee I pray,
 Give me in hie
 Jesu body
 In *gree it for to grave all alone. (*favour)

PILATUS Joseph, sir, I grant thee that *geste. (*gesture)
 I grouch not to *grath him in grave. (*prepare)
 *Delyver, have done he were dressed, (*quickly, lively)
 And so, sir, our Sabbath to save.

JOSEPH With hands and heart that I have
 I thank thee in faith for my friend.
 God keep thee thy comfort to crave,
 For *wightly my way will I wend (*swiftly)
 In hie.
 To do that deed
 He be my speed,
 That arms *gun spread, (*did)
 Mankind by his blood for to buy.

NICHODEMUS Well met, ser; in mind *gun I move (*did)
 For Jesu that judged was *ungent. (*unjustly)
 Ye laboured for license and leave

To bury his body on *bent?

(*resolved)

JOSEPH Full mildly that matter I meant,
And that for to do will I *dress.

(*prepare, make ready)

NICHODEMUS Both same I would that we went
And let not for more nay for less,
For why
Our friend was he,
Faithful and free.

JOSEPH Therefore go we
To bury that body in hie.

All mankind may mark in his mind
To see here this sorrowful sight.
No falseness in him could they find
That dolefully to dead thus is *dight.

(*done, ordered)

NICHODEMUS He was a full worthy *wight,
Now blemished and *bolned with blood.

(*human, soul)
(*swollen)

JOSEPH Yea, for that he mustered his might.
Full falsely they felled that food,
I ween,
Both back and side
His wounds wide;
*Forthy this tide
Take we him down us between.

(*therefore)

NICHODEMUS Between us take we him down,
And lay him on length on this land.

JOSEPH This reverent and rich of renown,
Let us hold him and *halse him with hand.
A grave have I got here be ordained
That never was in *note, it is new.

(*bind, wrap)

(*i.e. use)

NICHODEMUS To this course it is *comely according
To dress him with deds full due
This *stounde

(*appropriately)

(*place)

JOSEPH A *sudarye
Lo here have I,
Wind him *forthy,
And soon shall we grave him in ground .

(*pall, shroud)

(*therefore)

NICHODEMUS In ground let us grave him and go;
Do lively, let us lay him alone.
Now Saviour of me and of more,
Thou keep us in cleanness *ilkone. (*each/every one)

JOSEPH To thy mercy now make I my moan,
As Saviour by sea and by sand,
Thou guide me that my grief be all gone;
With loyal life to long in this land
And ease.

NICHODEMUS *Seere ointments here have I (*several, diverse)
Brought for this fair body.
I anoint thee *forthy (*therefore)
With myrrh and aloes.

JOSEPH This deed it is done *ilke a dele, (*every) (**part, step)
And wrought is this work well *iwis. (*surely)
To thee, King, on knees here I kneel
That *baynly thou **belde me in bliss. (*readily, quickly) (**encourage)

NICHODEMUS
He *highte me full **hendely to be his (*commanded) (**graciously)
A night when I *neghed him full near. (*came near/nigh)
Have mind, Lord, and mend me of *mis, (*sins, misdeeds)
For done is our deeds full dear
This tide.

JOSEPH This Lord so good
That shed his blood
He mend your mood
And *buske on this bliss for to bide. (*prepare, be ready)