

Ruthwell runes

The runes of the Ruthwell Cross, as transcribed for Bruce Dickins and Alan Ross (eds.), *The Dream of the Rood* (Methuen, 1934). Unclear or missing runes in the inscription are shown in square brackets.

Reading across the top from left to right and down the right-hand (SW) side:

krist wæs on rodi hweþræ þer fusæ fearran kwomu æþþilæ til anum ic þæt al bih[eald]
sar[æ] ic wæs mi[þ] **SORGUM GIDRœ[F]**þ **X[n]**ag

Christ was on the cross. Nevertheless hastening ones came there from afar to the lord, I beheld all that. I was grievously troubled with sorrows. I bowed [to the hands of men]...

Reading down the left (NW) side:

Miþ strelum giwundad alegdun hiæ hinæ limwœrignæ gistoddun him licæs
[hea]f[du]m] [bi]hea[l]du[n] hi[æ] þe[**R**] ...

With arrows wounded. They laid him down, limb-weary, they stood [at] his body's head. There they beheld [the lord of heaven].

