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## THEO 111 at Saint John's Bible

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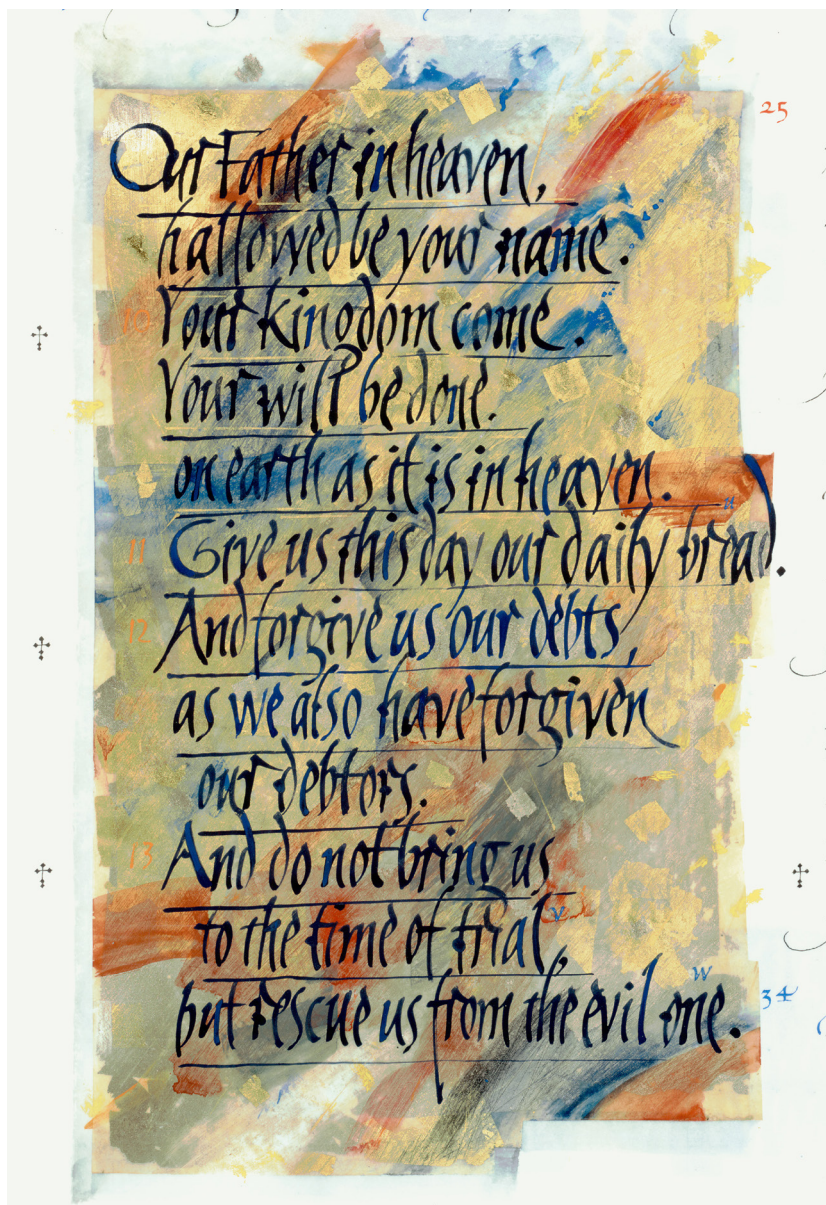
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## THEO 111 at Saint John's Bible

Lost my breath  
walking into the room.  
Caught off guard,  
astonished by beauty and craftsmanship.

Words turned into art,  
glimmering with gold,  
perfection, detail, color, precision,  
holiness, beauty.

Freshly finished Wisdom books  
created by human hands.  
A woman's head in gold and silver,  
God with feminine qualities.

Mood of each scribe reflected  
in words curving this way and that.  
Carefully written letters of each word,  
probably affected their lives.

Miraculous feat,  
the Word of God being spoken.  
Calligraphers are prophets,  
soul in it evoking emotion.

History in the making  
in our very own basement  
will be known by the world,  
an everlasting effect.

Looking at it I saw myself  
a gift from God.  
Inspired to spread the word,  
I should do something for my soul.

### **Note**

The words and phraseology of this “poem” are direct quotes from one semester’s set of student response papers written after the class’s lecture/tour of the Saint John’s Bible, compiled and arranged by S. Ephrem Hollermann.

*Sister Ephrem Hollermann, OSB, is Professor Emerita of Theology. She served as Koch Chair in Catholic Thought and Culture from 2007 to 2012, and as Prioress of Saint Benedict’s Monastery from 1995 to 2005. She retired in 2014.*