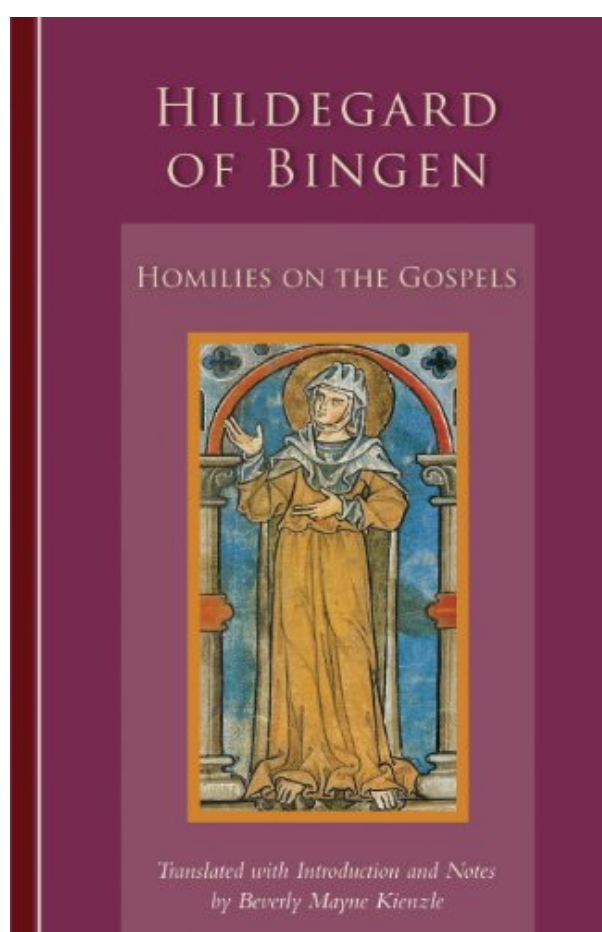


# HILDEGARD OF BINGEN: HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS (CISTERCIAN STUDIES) BY BEVERLY MAYNE KIENZLE



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# HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS



*Translated with Introduction and Notes  
by Beverly Mayne Kienzle*

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## Review

Like much of what Hildegard wrote, these sermons are unique, both in their adherence to a word-by-word analysis of the Gospel readings, as well as in their ingenuity in revealing the salvation-historical and moral meaning of the text. Hildegard was an original interpreter, as Beverly Mayne Kienzle's volume of accurate and readable translations shows. Bernard McGinn, Divinity School, University of Chicago

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Hildegard of Bingen (1098 '1179) describes the virtue of Fortitude teaching the other virtues in the fire of the Holy Spirit. Like Fortitude, Hildegard was enkindled by the Holy Spirit and edified many with her teaching.

Hildegard of Bingen's Homilies on the Gospels are here translated for the first time from Latin into English. Hildegard's sisters recorded and preserved her informal preaching in this collection of homilies on twenty-seven gospel pericopes. As teacher and superior to her sisters, Hildegard probably spoke to them in the chapter house, with the scriptural text either before her or recited from memory, according to Benedictine liturgical practice. The Homilies on the Gospels prove essential for comprehending the coherent theological Vision that Hildegard constructs throughout her works, including the themes of salvation history, the drama of the individual soul, the struggle of virtues against vices, and the life-giving and animating force of greenness (*uiriditas*). Moreover, the Homilies on the Gospels establish Hildegard as the only known female systematic exegete of the Middle Ages.

Beverly Mayne Kienzle, John H. Morison Professor of the Practice in Latin and Romance Languages, Harvard Divinity School, has published several books on medieval sermons and preaching, including *Hildegard of Bingen and Her Gospel Homilies* (2009); *Hildegard of Bingen, Expositiones euangeliorum*, coedited with Carolyn Muessig (2007); and *The Sermon: Typologie des sources du moyen âge occidental*, fasc. 81 '83 (2000).

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