

*Ronnie A. Saldana*

## **dead wood**

I bowled a 204  
the day jesus died  
four strikes  
five spares  
good friday the 13th.  
evening mass,  
sitting in a pew  
and frowning at three choir members  
singing the lord's passion a capella,  
arranged like a 6-7-10 split.  
crucify him crucify him  
pierces through a drowsy crowd.  
my mind fills with thoughts  
of speed, spin luck with oil  
on the fourth board.  
all are needed for impossible splits.  
the lord's passion is ending,  
replaced by a meandering  
eight foot cross  
which makes its way down  
the lane to an undecorated altar.  
lined up, i aim to kiss  
the elusive one pin  
so i can go in peace  
to bowl a 205.