

He's not here

by [Greg Huteson](#) in the [April 16, 2014](#) issue

There's no Jesus on the page.  
No church or priest or wafer.  
He's a dark figure. An inky  
character he is, that Jesus.  
Here there's no ink for him.

These are not holy words  
and this is no evangelistic sermon.  
It's no polemic. This poem's plain,  
as plain as rain and oil and wine.  
It may speak of a rough-cut slab,

but there's no altar and no wood.  
There's no ram or holocaust.  
The writing's black marks  
like smudges on a linen cloth  
under a kind and lambent light.