

Hollow again

by [Paul Willis](#) in the [December 2, 2020](#) issue

*(Quercus agrifolia)*

Look at this trunk, burnt hollow,  
keyholed from side to side.

Yet, in spite of a few dead limbs,  
a crown of leaves pushes against

the patient sky. So we might  
flourish, in spite of ourselves,  
evacuated of fortitude. Paul  
said it: in weakness, strength;

in death, life. I don't know how.  
But most days, a long resilience  
of xylem and phloem.  
Of chlorophyll. *Ex nihilo*.