

Confirmation

for Klaude

Penance

What is the sound
of regret through the wind
at sixteen feet per second?

Absolution

Your feet, empty
as beams of light.
Your smile a dead
giveaway.

Resurrection

The stone moved aside.
An empty tomb.
She found your burial clothes
laid out neatly on your bed.

Age of Discretion

You must have wanted
as I stood with you
before Christ.
You must have known.

Lead us not.
Lead us not into.
Lead us.

Sanctum

*In a car. On a lot. In the daylight. You paid the boy.
You hated yourself. Your prayers were flagellants.*

Persecution

*You were drunk in the car when they pulled you over.
They brought you before the judge. You were guilty. You fled.
They crucified you in the news. I denied your name to myself.
You were drunk in the car when they pulled you over again.*

Facing hard time, you knew it was time to go.
If only Judas were there to kiss you goodbye.

Contrition

Heart burst like water.
Ribs caved in like jars of clay.
Teeth exploded in shards.
Brains become jelly.
Bones become dust.

Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti¹

A note left behind on the seat of a car on a bridge over the river.

Ascension

Now, the quiet trees. Now, the darkness.
Now the odor of iron and wet stone
rising in the cool June air.

Matt Hohner

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¹ Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.