

## **Son Salutation**

Jesus goes to yoga class.  
Gabriel tells him that he needs a practice  
to reduce his stress, and Michael sings  
the praises of flexibility.

Jesus watches a class first,  
humans stretching themselves into unnatural  
shapes. He senses their pain  
and wonders if there's a more efficient  
way to dispatch that discomfort.

He could heal them with a single  
word if they had faith.  
He unrolls his yoga mat  
to join them as they arch  
into dog shapes and fish curves.

He's been crucified on a cross.  
He thought he understood the limits  
of human pain. But on this hard, wood  
floor, he senses yet another threshold.

After several weeks, he admits  
to feeling better. That persistent flare  
of pain in his lower spine  
has faded. The kink of muscles  
in his right bicep has ungnarled.

His classmates, too, notice  
improvement. They sleep  
through the night to rise  
with renewed energy. They feel  
new hope. The ones  
who have touched  
the sweat of Jesus report  
the easing of every chronic condition.

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