

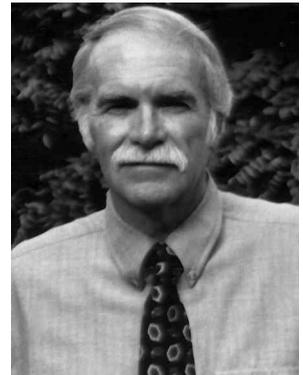
Abbey Bells

(Gethsemani)

By **J. T. Ledbetter**

Sparrows at dusk
fold their wings
and fall like rain
through the loblolly pines
to drive their beaks
into the frozen garden ground
until Abbey bells
scatter them
through the silent cloister,
their thin shadows
frozen on the snow.

J. T. Ledbetter recently retired from California Lutheran University, where he taught for 34 years. He is the author of *Gethsemani Poems* (1994) and is a frequent contributor to *The Merton Seasonal* and other journals.



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