

Three Poems

By David Hodges, OCSO

Wilderness

Wilderness weather,
a lull in the
unforgiving,
horizontal rain.
The seascape boundless,
rugged headland
after rugged headland,
the peregrine hunting,
gulls riding the wind.
The soul stiff with cold.
Dusk comes quickly.

Lectio

Cold sunset
Open window
Listening to
the wind

Open book
Sacred text
Drinking from
the hidden spring

Enclosure

Enclosure walls
and silent windows,
light and shadow
in the sun's hot glare.
The inner courtyard,
cloistered shade,
tranquil rest,
where small birds nest
and flowers gently open.
Enchanted joy
to heal the inner soul.



David Hodges

David Hodges, OCSO is a monk at the Cistercian Abbey on Caldey Island, off the south coast of Wales. A former solicitor, his poetry has appeared in *The Month*, *Spirituality*, *Hallel*, *Mount Carmel*, *The Tablet*, *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*, and *The Merton Journal*. He has published two volumes of poems on monastic themes, *Songs from Solitude* and *On the Night Tide*.