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Revised Psalm 16

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Revised Psalm 16

To honor the memory of Brandon Bernard, who was executed by the United States federal government on December 10, 2020.

By Matt Wooters, SJ

Be with me, God. They are going to kill me. All of them. Everyone who pays taxes, all 141 million of them are paying for the poison that will destroy the body that you built.

But my eyes are on you. You keep me warm in this cold, solitary cell. They call it justice. They call this law and order. But my eyes are on you. This blood sport. This modern-day lynching. Another black body taken from his mother. But my eyes are on you.

But I know this is not the end. My end is with you. When they are mopping the death chamber of my blood, sweat, piss and shit after they kill me. I will be with you. I keep you always in my mind.

I feel sorry for them, Lord. They think they are you. They think they can arbitrate who is killed. Unlike them, I know I am a sinner. I know that I have done bad things, I've spent my whole adult life repenting. I know that is not the fullness of who I am. I rest in you.

Forevermore, I will be with you in joy. Forevermore, my blood is on their hands and their tax forms and their ballots. Forgive them... for they know exactly what they are doing.