

# Isaiah 43

Author unknown

1. When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you,  
And the waves will not overcome you.  
Do not fear,  
For I have redeemed you, I have called you by name,  
You are Mine.

## **CHORUS:**

For I am the Lord your God (*I am the Lord your God*),  
I am the Lord your God (*I am*)  
The Holy One of Israel  
Your Savior  
(repeat)

I am the Lord (*do not fear*)  
I am the Lord (*do not fear*)  
I am the Lord (*do not fear*)  
I am the Lord (*do not fear*)

2. When you walk through the fire  
You'll not be burned,  
And the flames will not consume you.  
Do not fear,  
For I have redeemed you, I have called you by name,  
You are Mine.

(Repeat chorus)

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

“I have come  
to do your will,



my God;

your law is  
within my heart.”

## First Sunday in Lent

Old Orchard Church

March 1, 2009 — 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

## CELEBRATING JESUS, DIVINE SON OF MAN: BOUND FOR JERUSALEM, DETERMINED TO DIE

Revealed in his Transfiguration to be Messiah  
—the glorious “Son of Man” in Daniel’s vision of old—

Jesus Christ sets his face toward Jerusalem  
knowing full well the rejection that awaits him.

Stalwart in his determination to obey,  
fixed in his purpose to be used by God,  
He climbed the steep ascent to heaven  
through peril, toil, and pain.

By the resolve of his will and the constancy of his love,  
he who was made like us, became for us  
what our brother Adam failed to be—  
a true and obedient son,  
acceptable to the Father.

O Sing with the Jerusalem above  
A song of praise to the Lamb.  
Alleluia!



### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

### SERMON SERIES ON MATTHEW

“Shrewd as a Snake, Innocent as a Dove”  
Matthew 21:23-27

*Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching*

## CHRIST OUR SYMPATHY, CHRIST OUR VICTORY

Today is the first Sunday in Lent, the six weeks we use to prepare ourselves for a fresh celebration on Good Friday and Easter of Christ’s dying and rising.

As we have been focusing our worship since Epiphany on Jesus as the *incarnate Son of God*, so during Lent we will celebrate him as the *divine Son of Man*. When Daniel saw a vision of the glorified Christ (Daniel 7) and described him as “**one like a son of man,**” he was prophesying that the one whose face shined like the sun—that is, with all the splendor of God’s being—was also a human being. Christ came down that our human nature might be raised up and actually be given a share in God’s nature. That’s what all those who faithfully love Christ to the end are promised. Do you believe it? It’s true.

But before the ecstasy comes the agony. Our salvation is an absolutely free gift but it is won by Christ’s pain and secured by his power working in us, enabling us to follow in his footsteps and bear up under trouble and temptation.

Part of what it means that Jesus is human is that he was and continues to be our great Sympathizer. He entered so fully into the pain and brokenness of our fallen world that he knows—not because he is God but because he was and remains human—exactly what afflicts and wounds us. He knows this not generally but specifically. Are you tormented in temptation by desire for things that you know it would be wrong to get—say, revenge, or unlawful sexual pleasures? So was Jesus; he *suffered* when he was tempted. Do you carry great sadness in your heart, the accumulation of a hundred injuries and disappointments? Jesus knows how you feel: he was a man of sorrows. Do you often feel alone, even in a crowd? Jesus knows what it’s like: he remembers being all alone, his disciples gone or else hopelessly out of touch with what was really happening to him.

Each week until Good Friday we will focus on one particular thing Jesus suffered in which he can sympathize with us:

March 1—**Divine Son of Man: Bound for Jerusalem, Determined to Die**

March 8—**Divine Son of Man: Sorely Tempted**

March 15—**Divine Son of Man: Misunderstood and Misused**

March 22—**Divine Son of Man: Man of Sorrows**

March 29—**Divine Son of Man: Afflicted With Pain**

April 5— (Palm Sunday) **Divine Son of Man: Alone in the World**

Let Christ’s deep sympathy with you be an encouragement to you for whatever is hard right now. But remember, Jesus not only feels all that’s wrong with the world; he began to overcome it when he set his face like flint, as Isaiah once prophesied he would (Isaiah 50:7), bound for Jerusalem, resolved to obey God, determined to die.

If you trust that Jesus endured all of it for you, then you can know why you’re here this morning: to thank him.

—Ron Lutjens

