

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*) (4 X)

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.**



In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(Colossians 2:3)

Old Orchard Church
August 30, 2009—10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Wisdom

And the Admission of Ian McKie to the Lord's Supper

Jesus Christ is Lord of our minds;
Jesus Christ is Lord
of our studying and learning,
of our investigations and theories,
of all that we understand,
of all that we do not understand.

In him is hidden every treasure
of wisdom and knowledge.

Praise be to you, O Christ—
You, the living Truth;
You, the source of every skill;
You, the great "I Am"
without beginning, without end.
Uncreated,
you created the universe from nothing,
As agent of the Father,
by the Spirit's power.

Sanctify our minds for the rich pleasure
of thinking, of learning, of knowing.
Receive our praise, fill us with wisdom,
that love might be served!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Proverbs 4:5-7; Psalm 111:10

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-10

Today's Sermon

"Breaking Points"

Numbers 11:10-15, 1 Kings 19: 1-18

Richard Winter, Professor at Covenant Seminary, preaching

Why Think?

The church's singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, or worldview, that governs every area of existence. This failure has been crippling in many ways. For one thing, we cannot answer the questions our children bring home from school, so we are incapable of preparing them to answer the challenges they face. For ourselves, we cannot explain to our friends and neighbors why we believe, and we often cannot defend our faith. And we do not know how to organize our lives correctly, allowing our choices to be shaped by the world around us. What's more, by failing to see Christian truth in every aspect of life, we miss great depths of beauty and meaning: the thrill of seeing God's splendor in the intricacies of nature or hearing his voice in the performance of a great symphony or detecting his character in the harmony of a well-ordered community.

Most of all, our failure to see Christianity as a comprehensive framework of truth has crippled our efforts to have a redemptive effect on the surrounding culture. At its most fundamental level, the so-called culture war is a clash of belief systems. It is, as Abraham Kuyper [Christian philosopher, theologian, and statesman in Holland in the late 1800's] put it, a clash of principle against principle, of worldview against worldview. Only when we see this can we effectively evangelize a post-Christian culture, bringing God's righteousness to bear in the world around us.

Evangelism and cultural renewal are both divinely ordained duties. God exercises his sovereignty in two ways: through *saving grace* and *common grace*. We are all familiar with saving grace; it is the means by which God's power calls people who are dead in their trespasses and sins to new life in Christ. As God's servants, we may at times be agents of his saving grace, evangelizing and bringing people to Christ. But few of us really understand common grace, which is the means by which God's power sustains creation, holding back the sin and evil that result from the Fall and that would otherwise overwhelm his creation like a great flood. As agents of God's common grace, we are called to help sustain and renew his creation, to uphold the created institutions of family and society, to pursue science and scholarship, to create works of art and beauty, and to heal and help those suffering from the results of the Fall.

—Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey in How Now Shall We Live? (1999)

