

WE FALL DOWN

By CHRIS TOMLIN

Words of song in printed copy.

“I have come
to do your will,



my God;

your law is
within my heart.”

Psalms 40:7-8



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.**

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First Sunday in Lent

Old Orchard Church

FEBRUARY 17, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

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

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,
pleasing 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

“Biblical Hospitality: The Castle Doctrine” (Part 2)
I Kings 17:7-16

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 of the greatest revolution in history: the weekend a Jewish peasant rolled back the tyranny of death and the run-away sway of evil and violence, and set the world right side-up again.

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 humanness might be raised up and actually given a share in God’s nature (2 Peter 1:3-4). That’s what all those who love Christ to the end are promised. Do you believe it?

Before the ecstasy though, comes the agony. Our salvation is an absolutely free gift to us but it was won by Christ’s pain. It is appropriated by simple, child-like trust on our part, and confirmed by Christ’s power working in us, enabling us to follow in his footsteps and bear up under trouble and temptation—not perfectly, but genuinely.

That Jesus is human means that he is 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. Do you shrink from doing God’s will because there is a price to be paid? Jesus knows how you feel: he fought off the pull of avoiding Jerusalem and the death awaiting him there. Are you tormented in temptation by desire for things 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 often feel alone, even in a crowd? Jesus knows what it’s like: he remembers being alone, his disciples gone or else hopelessly out of touch with what was happening to him.

Each week until Good Friday we will focus on something Jesus suffered in which he can sympathize with us. Jesus was the **Divine Son of Man**:

—**Bound for Jerusalem, Determined to Obey** (February 17)

—**Sorely Tempted** (February 24)

—**Misunderstood and Misused** (March 3)

—**Man of Sorrows** (March 10)

—**Afflicted With Pain** (March 17)

—**Alone in the World** (March 24—Palm Sunday)

Let Christ’s deep sympathy with you be an encouragement 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 this for you, then you can know why you’re here this morning: to thank him.

—*Ron Lutjens*