

## **I'll Fly Away**

*By Albert E. Brumley*

Please see print copy for words.

## **Old Orchard Church**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 10, 2013 — 10:15-11:50 a.m.**

Please see print copy for cover art.

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.**

**He was despised  
and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows,  
and familiar with suffering.**

**Like one from whom  
men hide their faces  
he was despised,  
and we esteemed him not.**

**—Isaiah 53:3**

## Celebrating Jesus as Son of Man: Man of Sorrows

A Man of Sorrows,  
acquainted with suffering,  
my Lord Jesus Christ:

I bring to you my sadness, the achings of my heart;  
O carry them, bear them in tenderness now, dear Savior,  
as once you carried them in agony to the cross.

There, in your pain,  
you took from my grief its sting,  
its power to drain and cripple and ruin.

O fill my fragile soul with confidence as we worship you!

Give me to glimpse again by faith that Coming Day,  
when sorrow and sighing will flee away,  
finding no room near us, crowded out  
by the joy and gladness overtaking us forever.  
All praise to you, great Son of Man!



### Today's Scripture

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 52:13-53:6

**New Testament Lesson:** I Peter 2:20-25

### Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series

“What Is the Church, and What Does It Matter?” (Part III)

Ephesians 4:1-16

*Mark Robertson, associate pastor, preaching*

## He Carried Our Griefs

Sadness is everywhere—in 2013 as in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. when Isaiah wrote. But as Christians we can find our load lightened, and ourselves even cheerful, because we know that Christ cut the soul out of our sadness when he died. He **carried our sorrows**, as Isaiah put it in chapter 53; he carried them to the cross. **He bore our griefs** to the place of Death, that there they might die.

Yet who of us, even resting in the finished work of Christ, does not still know deep sadness? Even in the best of times there can be an abiding sorrow underlining our fragile lives, one that a few pious slogans will not chase.

Though the problems of other believers so often dwarf our own, each of us carries around a wounded heart. And sometimes our sadness goes so deep we feel we can hardly make anybody understand it.

But what we celebrate today on this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, the Lord's Day, is that Jesus understands our sadness—every bit of it, whatever it is, however deep it goes, and however far back. He is the Man of Sorrows. He made your sorrows to be his sorrows. So the Scripture says about God, **In all their affliction, he was afflicted** (Isaiah 63:9). God, in Christ, is our Sympathy. But Christ is more to us than sympathy—however desperately we need sympathy—if we're to carry on and not lose our confidence in the goodness of God. We need as well someone to defeat—in our lives and in the world — the brokenness that keeps breeding sorrow upon sorrow. And Christ did that for us when he died: he gutted sorrow of its power to destroy us, however much it bruises our souls, and sometimes our bodies. By carrying all our griefs to the cross he not only taught us that every last one of them is to be taken seriously; he also reassured us that no part of our created human glory can be taken from us for good. All our sadness and sorrows and griefs were gathered up into that one Greatest Grief when Jesus cried out in his anguish, **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** That was *our* withering, as the guilty ones, under the righteous wrath of God in the cruel murder of Jesus, the pure and perfect man.

But having gone under with Christ in his death, by faith, we emerge with him on the other side, the side of his resurrection—which is life and pure goodness forever, and therefore laughter. It is really because of the work of the Man of Sorrows at the cross that the psalmist, David, can reassure himself and exclaim:

**Weeping may last for the night,  
But joy comes in the morning.** (Psalm 30:5)

In Psalm 56:8 David says he expects that God is gathering all of his tears (and yours?) in a bottle. Why? Unless he's looking for the Lord to restore to his children every good thing we were robbed of, or never possessed, or squandered away; in other words, every sad thing we have cried over. This is why we can laugh now, even in our grief, and know that we're not just whistling in the dark.

—Ron Lutjens