

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.

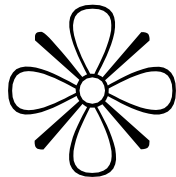
CHORUS:

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.**

Old Orchard Church
February 2, 2014 — 10:15 — 11:50 a.m.



For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way...Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

(Hebrews 2:17a-18)

Christ Our Brother, Sorely Tempted: Celebrating the Sympathy of God With Us

How awesome a Savior, how humble a Friend!

In the wilderness he fights for us;
He, the Older Brother, knowing our weakness,
On our behalf feels the lure of evil.

He feels it for us, and fights it for us.
Indeed, for love's sake,
He had to be made like us in all things—even in this.

He knows temptation from the inside:
 its sweetness,
 its sinister confusions.
But he trusted his way through it.

Jesus won what Adam lost;
He undertook our weakness,
that we might be strong in his strength. Alleluia!



Today's Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 3:1-8

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Miniseries (concludes)

Autonomy in the City of Man or Purity in the Kingdom of God

“Chastity, the Most Unnatural of the Sexual Perversions?”

Luke 2:25-38; I Corinthians 7:1-7, 25-35

Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching

The Temptations

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1

Jesus went straight from the waters of Jordan to the desert of Judea, where he was savagely tempted by the devil. The assault took two forms.

First came an assault on his identity, on who he was. The words of his Father were still ringing in his ears—“This is my Son”—when the voice from heaven was challenged by a voice from hell. The devil sneered, “If you are the Son of God . . . ” (v. 6), implying that he was not. It was a deliberate attempt to sow in Jesus’s mind the seeds of doubt. To counter them, Jesus must have kept repeating to himself the words of his Father, “This is my Son.” Still today the devil attempts to undermine our self-conscious identity as God’s children. For he is *diabolos*, the slanderer. We need to turn a deaf ear to him and listen instead to the great affirmations and promises of God in Scripture.

The devil’s second assault was against the ministry of Jesus, against what he had come into the world to do. We saw yesterday that the heavenly voice identified Jesus not only as God’s Son but also as God’s servant, who would suffer and die for his people’s sins. But the devil proposed other and less costly options. Why not win the world by satisfying its hunger, by a sensational display of power, or by striking a bargain with the devil—in each case bypassing the cross? The devil loves to persuade us that the end justifies the means.

Jesus refused to listen to the voice of the devil. Immediately, instinctively, vehemently, he rejected each temptation. There was no need to discuss or to negotiate. The matter had already been settled by Scripture (“It is written”); each time, he quoted an appropriate text from Deuteronomy 6 or 8. Still today there is a confusion of voices. The devil speaks through the secular culture surrounding us, and God speaks through his Word. Which shall we listen to? It is by our daily dogged discipline of Bible reading that we allow the devil’s voice to be drowned by the voice of God. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

—by John Stott in Through the Bible Through the Year (2006)

