

## Steal Away

Merle Haggard

Steal away, steal away  
Steal away to Jesus  
Steal away, steal away home  
I ain't got long to stay here

I was walkin' in Savannah, passed the church decayed and dined  
When there's slowly through the window came a plaintive funeral  
hymn

And a sympathy awakened an' a wonder quickly grew  
Till I found myself seat in a little negro pew

Out at front a young couple sat in sorrow, nearly wild  
And on the altar was a coffin and in the coffin lay a child  
Rows of sad old negro preacher at his little wooden desk  
With a manner grandly awkward with the countless grotesque

And he said now don't be weepin' for this little bit of clay  
For the little boy who lived there he done gone and run away  
He's was doin' very finely and he appreciated your love  
But it's sure enough father want him in the large house up above

Now he didn't give you that baby by a hundred thousand miles  
He just think you need some sunshine and he lend it for awhile  
He let you keep and love it till your hearts were bigger grown  
And these silver tears you have shed that's just interest on the loan

So my poor dejected mourners let your hearts with Jesus rest  
And don't go criticizein' no one the one that knows the best  
He gives us many comforts he's ever right to take away  
To the Lord be praised in glory now and ever, let us pray

My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thunder  
The trumpet sounds within my soul  
I ain't got long to stay here