

# Begin Again

*A prayer service on second chances*

**P:** Dear Lord, you are our Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. We thank you that in your single beginning and end, we can have our many. Help us to use this time as reflection for a new opportunity, a second chance at living according to your Word, living the life you mapped out for us. Thank you for your unending grace that is always ready to welcome us back after we have gone astray. Help us to be stewards of and for this beautiful world you created, so that everyone we come across may see your goodness reflecting through us. Amen.

## Opening Hymn

All the way my Savior leads me—  
What have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy,  
Who through life has been my guide?  
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,  
Here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well;  
For I know, whate'er befall me,  
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me—  
Cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,  
Feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter  
And my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the rock before me,  
Lo! a spring of joy I see;  
Gushing from the rock before me,  
Lo! A spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me—  
Oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised  
In my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal,  
Wings its flight to realms of day,  
This my song through endless ages:  
Jesus led me all the way;  
This my song through endless ages:  
Jesus led me all the way.  
Fanny Crosby (1875)

## Kauma

**P.** †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

**C.** As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**P.** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

**C.** Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**P.** Holy art thou, O God.

**C.** Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

**P.** Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

**C.** O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us.

**(To be repeated thrice)**

**P.** O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.  
(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.**

**(Cong to be seated)**

1st Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

2nd Lesson: Acts 27:9-25

**L: Meditation: What's your Story?"**

*"The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory"*  
(Isaiah 60:19)

"So messed up." We become so frustrated at times wondering how we manage to mess up royally. Most times unawares, expletives manage to burst out of the same mouth that receives the Holy Body and Holy Blood of Christ. Yet you and me is who He came for.

Despite the hide and seek games we play with our merciful God, he wants us to know that we were meant for bigger hearts, better words, softer thoughts towards ourselves and deeper commitment to the world he created.

The good news for the teeth-gritting, frustrated, expletive spitting, dissatisfied ones is that God knows better, and He will show us a way out, through His everlasting love for us.

The dim lights of the weekend that blur rather than better our vision can be left behind. We can trade illusory charm of the distant, romantic moonlight for the warmth and beauty of the blazing campfire before us - God will be your light. No darkness; the true light that gives better than Ultra HD clarity to our misused abused lives.

There is hope. There's a new beat to dance to. A new music to swing to, as we hand over our lives to the redeemer.

Let your life story be a redemption story. May your transformed life reflect the everlasting beauty of God's light.

It starts by saying, "Today, I choose to give my life, as it is, into the hands of the Saviour- the one who will even die for me that I may live."

Amen.

Rev. Mathews George in his book ZOE – Youthful Engagements with Christian life.

**L: New Every Morning**

Every morn is the world made new.

You who are weary of sorrow and sinning,

Here is a beautiful hope for you,—

A hope for me and a hope for you.

All the past things are past and over;  
The tasks are done and the tears are shed.  
Yesterday's errors let yesterday cover;

Yesterday's wounds, which smarted and bled,  
Are healed with the healing which night has shed.

Yesterday now is a part of forever,  
Bound up in a sheaf, which God holds tight,  
With glad days, and sad days, and bad days, which never  
Shall visit us more with their bloom and their blight,  
Their fulness of sunshine or sorrowful night.

Let them go, since we cannot re-live them,  
Cannot undo and cannot atone;  
God in his mercy receive, forgive them!  
Only the new days are our own;  
To-day is ours, and to-day alone.

Here are the skies all burnished brightly,  
Here is the spent earth all re-born,  
Here are the tired limbs springing lightly  
To face the sun and to share with the morn  
In the chrism of dew and the cool of dawn.

Every day is a fresh beginning;  
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain,  
And, spite of old sorrow and older sinning,  
And puzzles forecasted and possible pain,  
Take heart with the day, and begin again.

~Susan Coolidge

### **Hymn**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
rolling as a mighty ocean  
in its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me,  
is the current of Thy love;  
leading onward, leading homeward  
to Thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
changeth never, nevermore!  
How He watcheth o'er His loved ones,  
died to call them all His own;  
how for them He intercedeth,  
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
love of every love the best;  
'tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'tis heav'n of heav'ns to me;  
and it lifts me up to glory,  
for it lifts me up to Thee.

~Author: S. Trevor Francis, Tune: EBENEZER (Williams)

### **L: Awaken in Christ's Body**

We awaken in Christ's body  
as Christ awakens our bodies,  
and my poor hand is Christ, He enters  
my foot, and is infinitely me.

I move my hand, and wonderfully  
my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him  
(for God is indivisibly  
whole, seamless in His Godhood).

I move my foot, and at once  
He appears like a flash of lightning.  
Do my words seem blasphemous?  
Then open your heart to Him

and let yourself receive the one  
who is opening to you so deeply.  
For if we genuinely love Him,  
we wake up inside Christ's body

where all our body, all over,  
every most hidden part of it,  
is realized in joy as Him,  
and He makes us, utterly, real,

and everything that is hurt, everything  
that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,  
maimed, ugly, irreparably  
damaged, is in Him transformed

and recognized as whole, as lovely,  
and radiant in His light  
he awakens as the Beloved  
in every last part of our body.  
We awaken in Christ's body

by Symeon the New Theologian

English version by Stephen Mitchell  
Original Language Greek

(Cong. to stand)

### **Prayer of Confession**

***Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson***  
***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy***

**P:** O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailyness of our lives.

**C:** Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings.  
Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength.  
Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom.  
We come to you O creator, to ask for forgiveness and thank you for your mercy towards us.  
Replenish us and restore our path. May we in turn, help those around us find the light so that we are able to cultivate a world of kindness, acceptance and second chances for all. Amen

***Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson***  
***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy***

**Intercessory Prayers**

**L:** Father God, we come before you with thanks as we step into the season after your resurrection. Help us to draw from the lessons of the past few months, and apply it into our lives as we encounter new beginnings. God, give us wisdom from your truths, fill us with a desire to faithfully follow after you, more than any other thing. Thank you that you are far greater than any fear. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength. We ask that your hope renew us, and your peace calm us. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us and through us again, fresh and new. Amen.

***C: To be sung***  
***Like a river, glorious***  
***Is God's perfect peace,***  
***Over all victorious***  
***In its bright increase;***  
***Perfect, yet it floweth***  
***Fuller every day,***  
***Perfect, yet it groweth***  
***Deeper all the way.***

***Stayed upon Jehovah,***  
***Hearts are fully blest;***  
***Finding, as He promised,***  
***Perfect peace and rest.***

**L:** Abba Father, we come to you knowing that we have gone astray. Help us to realise that our transgressions lie not only in the big, visible things but also in the seemingly small and invisible things. We have forgotten to listen before we draw conclusions and have resorted to forming baseless judgements instead. We have devised a hierarchical system based on meaningless indicators forgetting that in your sight, we are all the same. We used our opportunities to get farther ahead without considering helping our peers. We have forgotten that you are in control always and have chosen to believe that we are capable of far more than what we can actually do. Help us to realise that all we can do, we can do because of you. Thank you for giving us the intellect to realise our wrongdoings and the moral compass to come back to the right path. May we use your grace as an anchor in life's tempestuous seas and your peace to overcome our worries

***C: To be sung***  
***Hidden in the hollow***  
***Of His blessed hand,***  
***Never foe can follow,***  
***Never traitor stand;***  
***Not a surge of worry,***  
***Not a shade of care,***  
***Not a blast of hurry***  
***Touch the spirit there.***

***Stayed upon Jehovah***  
***Hearts are fully blest;***  
***Finding, as He promised,***  
***Perfect peace and rest.***

**L:** We pray for our Country's upcoming elections. We ask that you help our citizens choose well and for the greater good of all. We pray that the leaders chosen are of sound calibre and that they work not for themselves, but the country. May we build a country where each person is acknowledged, welcomed and accepted.

Renew and reconstruct our soul. Obliterate bad habits. We believe that your Word is working in us today. Thank you for the power of your Word to bring change in us. We praise you for the joy you've set before us: a life lived as you intended us to live! Help us not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds through the Word of God. Amen.

***C: To be sung***

**Every joy or trial  
Falleth from above,  
Traced upon our dial  
By the Sun of Love.  
We may trust Him fully  
All for us to do;  
They who trust Him wholly  
Find Him wholly true.**

***Stayed upon Christ Jesus,  
Hearts are fully blest;  
Finding, as He promised,  
Perfect peace and rest.***

**Gospel Reading**

**P:** †Peace be with you all.

**C:** May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

**P:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by **Evangelist John**

**C:** Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

**P:** In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

**C:** So, we believe and affirm. **Luke 13:10-17**

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says,†'**Peace be with you all'**)

**C:** We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

**The Nicene Creed**

**P:** We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

**C:** We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified† also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

**(Cong. to be seated)**

**Birthday, Wedding Anniversary and Thanksgiving**

I hear Thy welcome voice,  
That calls me, Lord, to Thee,  
For cleansing in Thy precious blood  
That flowed on Calvary.

*I am coming, Lord,  
Coming now to Thee:  
Wash me, cleanse me in the blood  
That flowed on Calvary.*

Though coming weak and vile,  
Thou dost my strength assure;  
Thou dost my vileness fully cleanse,  
Till spotless all, and pure.

'Tis Jesus who confirms  
The blessed work within,  
By adding grace to welcomed grace,  
Where reigned the power of sin.

All hail, redeeming blood!  
All hail, life-giving grace!  
All hail, the gift of Christ our Lord,  
Our strength and righteousness.  
Lewis Hartsough (1919)

**Announcements**

**Offertory**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love!

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love:  
Take my heart, oh, take and seal it  
With Thy Spirit from above.  
Rescued thus from sin and danger,  
Purchased by the Savior's blood,  
May I walk on earth a stranger,  
As a son and heir of God.  
Robert Robinson (1790), John Wyeth (1858)

## **Message**

### **Cong. to stand**

#### **Closing Prayer**

**P:** Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us.

**C:** Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. May we use the light you put in our hearts to touch the lives of those around us. Let each dawn be a new beginning in acknowledging your love.

#### **Benediction**

**P:** May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

#### **Doxology**

All my doubts I give to Jesus;

I've His gracious promise heard:

I shall never be confounded,

I am trusting in that word.

*I am trusting, fully trusting,*

*Sweetly trusting in His word;*

*I am trusting, fully trusting,*

*Sweetly trusting in His word.*

All my sins I lay on Jesus,

He doth wash me in His blood,

He will keep me pure and holy,

He will keep me close to God.

J. C. Morgan, George Stebbins (1945)