

## Dawn of New Beginnings

Reader 1: O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sand the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

Reader 2: We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Reader 3: Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

Reader 4: For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are, and yet, can be. Amen.



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## Final Blessing



Leader:  
Blessings on You  
as you take  
the next steps on your path.

May Beauty and Strength  
walk with you.

All: Amen

Leader: May the winds  
and rains anoint you.

All: Amen

Leader:  
May you experience  
all creation as friend—  
and may Gratitude  
be your constant companion  
in the dance of life.  
This through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



source unknown

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo  
York Catholic District School Board

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*"Let's do something  
beautiful for God..."*  
Mother Teresa

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## A Time for New Beginnings



*"Life is a set of cir-  
cumstances that you  
can change, im-  
prove, and make bet-  
ter day by day.*

*It's your decision, it's  
in your hands..."*

**B. Hall**

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*A time for change...  
A time for new  
beginnings...*



**Introduction**

Today, we gather to celebrate the opportunity for a new beginning. It is a time to evaluate your life path, and to dream of what is yet to come. As you reflect, resolve to pay close attention to your life. Be open to what God is trying to tell you. Your heart speaks to you in every way, at every moment, every encounter, every feeling. By listening and making responsible choices, you can reinvent your life each day.

- J. Rupp

**Opening Prayer: A New Day**

Dear God,

Thank You for my chance to begin again. Free me from the limitations of yesterday. Today may I be reborn. May I become more fully a reflection of Your radiance. Give me strength and compassion and courage and wisdom. Show me the light in myself and others. May I recognize the good that is available everywhere. May I be, this day, an instrument of love and healing. Lead me into gentle pastures.



Give me deep peace that I might serve You most deeply. Amen.

- J. Rupp

**Scripture Reading...**

**Ecclesiastes 3: 11-13**

A reading from the book of the Ecclesiastes. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Responsive Prayer**

***Response: Walk closely with us, God.***

As we strive to live our lives well...

As we enjoy the treasures we've found in the field of faith...

As we continue to surrender ourselves to You...

As we journey into the unknown...

As we hurt in the process of loving our enemies...



As we learn to accept our strengths and our weaknesses...

As we open our hearts to the messengers You send to us...

As we try to live in the heart of the scriptures...



As we keep searching for truth...

As we accept Your constant love for us...

- J. Rupp

Leader: God, as we face this change in life, we are walking into mystery. We face the future, not knowing what the days and months will bring to us or how we will respond. Be love in us as we journey. May we welcome all who come our way. Deepen our faith to see all of life through Your eyes. Fill us with hope and abiding trust that You dwell in us amidst all our joys and sorrows. Thank You for the treasure of our faith life. Thank You for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance of Your walking through the day with us. God, we praise You.

- J. Rupp



*A chance for a new beginning is a gift from God. Embrace it!*