Call to Worship

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

Opening Prayer

P: O Lord our God, give us the grace to worship you with a sanctified mind, purified body and heartfelt devotion. O Lord, who became poor for our sake, let your illumining face be a source of our salvation. Make us worthy to obtain the heavenly gifts of the Holy Spirit. Cleanse us from all that would hurt us, and keep us under the shadow of your cross. Protect us by your imperishable Word in this perishable world. We pray for your presence and guiding light especially for our youth as they embark on the challenges of life. Amen

Opening Song

As we gather
may Your Spirit work within us.
As we gather may we glorify Your Name.
Knowing well that as our
Hearts begin to worship.
We'll be blessed because we came.
We'll be blessed because we came.

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: Genesis 39:1-23

2nd Lesson: Hebrews 12:1-13

Hymn

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you

MICHAEL W. SMITH Lyrics
L: Meditation

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Which is the most difficult era of human life? Infancy? Adolescence? Mature adulthood? Agedness? It probably depends upon where you are as to how you might answer that query. While many might think that one’s “sunset” years are the hardest, the more popular opinion would be the period designated as “youth” to be the most challenging.

Youth is a frustrating time in life for many. It is that period when one is hardly old enough to be “on his own,” and yet he feels a sense of independence and thus is ever attempting to find some sense of identity; that is why they sometimes act and dress so weird. (Who doesn’t?)

The Scriptures represent “youth” as a time both of danger and challenge. Moses said that “the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (Gen. 8:21), and Paul admonished Timothy to “flee youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22). However, Paul would say to Timothy: “Let no man despise your youth; but you be an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).

One should realise that our youthfulness can be quite impetuous and sometimes a bit silly. But they are, nonetheless, a wonderful resource in the kingdom of heaven. The fact is, the Bible is replete with examples of how God has used younger people in some of the most vital roles in the unfolding of his marvellous plan of redemption. (Joseph, Miriam, David, Josiah, Jeremiah, Mary and Timothy)

Have you ever noticed just where the twenty-third Psalm is located? It lies between the Twenty-second and the Twenty-fourth Psalm. A very simple statement, but how deep and wondrous a lesson lies hidden therein!

The Twenty-second Psalm is “The Psalm of the Cross.” It begins with the words uttered by Christ on the cross: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”. It ends with the exclamation of the cross: “He hath done it,” or as it may be translated, “it is finished.” The Twenty-second Psalm, then, is the Psalm of Mount Calvary - The Psalm of the Cross which initiates us to an understanding of the great sacrifice.

What is the Twenty-fourth Psalm? It is the Psalm of Mount Zion - a picture of the King entering into His Own. How beautifully it reads: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.” The Twenty-fourth Psalm, then is the Psalm of the coming Kingdom of glory, it is the culmination of our spiritual journey.

There you have the two mountains; Mount Calvary and Mount Zion. What is it that lies between two mountains? A valley with its green grass, its quiet waters, its springing flowers, with shepherd and grazing sheep - That is the Twenty-third Psalm.

What is the lesson we learn from the location of the Twenty-third Psalm? It is meant to give comfort, help, inspiration and encouragement to God’s people, and especially those in their ‘Youthhood’, during times of both danger and challenge, the twenty-third Psalm assures us that God will guide us through the most challenging period of life, and deliver us into His glorious plan.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Indeed!"

L: Trusting Jesus

Simply trusting every day

Trusting through a stormy way;
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting as the moments fly,
Trusting as the days go by;
Trusting him whatever befall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Brightly doth his Spirit shine
Into this poor heart of mine;
While he leads I cannot fall;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Singing if my way is clear;
Praying is the path be drear;
If in danger, for him I call;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting him while life shall last
Trusting him till earth be past;
Till within the jasper wall;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.
*Edgar P. Stiles (1836-1921)*

**Hymn**

*Bless the Lord oh my soul*
*Oh my soul*
*Worship His Holy name*
*Sing like never before*
*Oh my soul*
*I'll worship Your Holy name*

*The sun comes up*
*It's a new day dawning*
*It's time to sing Your song again*
*Whatever may pass*
*And whatever lies before me*
*Let me be singing*
*When the evening comes*

*You're rich in love*
*And You're slow to anger*
*Your name is great*
*And Your heart is kind*
*For all Your goodness*
*I will keep on singing*
*Ten thousand reasons*
*For my heart to find*

*And on that day*
*When my strength is failing*
*The end draws near*
*And my time has come*
*Still my soul will*
*Sing Your praise unending*
*Ten thousand years*
And then forevermore  
Forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name

I'll worship Your Holy name  
Jesus I will worship Your Holy name

Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship your holy name

**L: Reflection**

**What if, for one day, Jesus were to become you?**

What if, for twenty-four hours, Jesus wakes up in your bed, walks in your shoes, lives in your house, assumes your schedule? Your boss becomes his boss, your mother becomes his mother, your pains become his pains? With one exception, nothing about your life changes. Your health doesn't change. Your circumstances don't change. Your schedule isn't altered. Your problems aren't solved. Only one change occurs.

What if, for one day and one night, Jesus lives your life with his heart? Your heart gets the day off, and your life is led by the heart of Christ. His priorities govern your actions. His passions drive your decisions. His love directs your behaviour.

What would you be like? Would people notice a change? Your family—would they see something new? Your coworkers—would they sense a difference? What about the less fortunate? Would you treat them the same? And your friends? Would they detect more joy? How about your enemies? Would they receive more mercy from Christ's heart than from yours?

And you? How would you feel? What alterations would this transplant have on your stress level? Your mood swings? Your temper? Would you sleep better? Would you see sunsets differently? Death differently? Taxes differently? Any chance you'd need fewer aspirin or sedatives? How about your reaction to traffic delays? (Ouch, that touched a nerve.) Would you still dread what you are dreading? Better yet, would you still do what you are doing?

Would you still do what you had planned to do for the next twenty-four hours? Pause and think about your schedule. Obligations. Engagements. Outings. Appointments. With Jesus taking over your heart, would anything change?

Keep working on this for a moment. Adjust the lens of your imagination until you have a clear picture of Jesus leading your life, then snap the shutter and frame the image. What you see is what God wants. He wants you to "think and act like Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

God's plan for you is nothing short of a new heart. If you were a car, God would want control of your engine. If you were a computer, God would claim the software and the hard drive. If you were an airplane, he'd take his seat in the cockpit. But you are a person, so God wants to change your heart.

"But you were taught to be made new in your hearts, to become a new person. That new person is made to be like God—made to be truly good and holy" (Eph. 4:23-24).  
God wants you to be just like Jesus. He wants you to have a heart like his.

I'm going to risk something here. It's dangerous to sum up grand truths in one statement, but I'm going to try. If a sentence or two could capture God's desire for each of us, it might read like this:
God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be just like Jesus.

By Max Lucado

(Cong to stand)

Prayer of Confession

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

P: Everlasting Father, you are the mighty God. You sent your Son and performed the final sacrifice, and you deserve all of our praise.

C: Dear Father, you are good. Your ways are perfect and above my own. You deserve my full obedience and my worship. You are my teacher and authority because of your goodness.

Humble me today when I choose my way over yours. Use my prideful moments as an opportunity to teach me and redirect me. I need your help today. I am a sinner and am feeling the weight of my sin. Show me what your Son’s birth means for me in this moment.

Show my friends that your goodness is more important than their desires. Provide them with encouragement to seek your good and upright way. Give grace to those who have not accepted your Son and do not know the freedom he gives. Let them see that you are their loving father.

Thank you for loving me, not just yesterday or today, but always, no matter the depth of my sin; and thank you for your constant instruction and concern for each step of my life.

In the name of Jesus, we pray these things. Amen

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

Intercessory Prayer

L: O Lord, you are abounding in forgiveness and mercy and goodness, which I cannot understand in this life. As I bow in regret and guilt over past sin, remind me of your forgiveness. Please let me feel your mercy so that I can give of myself to others I encounter today
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, You are good! Lord I often feel far from you. Bring me close and remind me what it’s like to be in close relationship with you. Be with all those who are lonely right now. Help us to be part of their loving community and fulfill their needs.
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, your blessings are perfect. All that you give is good! Teach me to accept what you’ve given, even though I may not always understand the circumstances and reveal to me your plan in my life.
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, We pray for all who are providing valuable leadership to the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam: our respected President Bishops, Vice-President, General Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, Treasurer, Committee members, office staff and volunteers.
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, we pray for those who coordinate and empower the work of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, its coordinators and all those leading the thought processes and discussions both from the front and behind the scenes.
C: Lord, hear our prayer
L: O Lord, We pray for all the activities and workers of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, for all the youths, their areas of study, their work situations, and especially for those who are living away from home and for those leading a family life.
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, We pray for all youth who are differently abled and for the institutions which train them and all those who encourage them
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, We pray for all those who are struggling to pursue their education, for those who are not using their opportunities wisely, and for the deliverance of those who are losing their lives to alcohol, drugs and other substances.
C: Lord, hear our prayer

L: O Lord, you are the Healer and Miracle Maker. You can give sight to the blind and voice to the voiceless. For my family and my community, please bring them miraculous healing in body and mind. Strengthen their faith and encourage them. We are so grateful that we can come to you and present our requests at any time.
In Your matchless name, we pray,
C: Amen

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 John 1: 43-51

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.
(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
We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
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 & Thanksgiving-
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

†Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun  
John Newton, 1779

**Offertory**

I come before You today  
And there's just one thing that I want to say  
Thank You Lord  
Thank You Lord

For all You've given to me  
For all the blessings I can not see  
Thank You Lord  
Thank You Lord

With a grateful heart  
With a song of praise  
With an outstretched arm  
I will bless Your name

Thank You Lord  
I just wanna thank You Lord  
Thank You Lord  
I just wanna thank You Lord  
Thank You Lord

For all You've done in my life  
You took my darkness and gave me Your light  
Thank You Lord  
Thank You Lord

You took my sin and my shame  
You took my sickness and healed all my pain
Thank You Lord
Thank You Lord

With a grateful heart
With a song of praise
With an outstretched arm
I will bless Your name

Thank You Lord
I just wanna thank You Lord
Thank You Lord
I just wanna thank You Lord
Thank You Lord

Oh, thank You Lord
I just wanna thank You Lord
I just wanna thank You Lord
Oh, thank You Lord
I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord

Oh we thank You, oh we thank You Lord
Lift Your voice, thank You Lord
All You’ve done in our live we just wanna say thank You Lord
Oh thank You Lord, thank You Lord
Don Moen

MESSAGE

(Cong. to stand)

Closing Prayer
C: Dear Father you are our helper and our redeemer. Give us the strength to get through the days ahead, and the desire to work in a manner that brings glory, honour and praise to your name. We are so grateful to be called ‘Your People’, and so humbled that we can come to you and present our request at any time.
Thank you for taking our cares and burdens upon yourself and promising to always care for each of us. In the name of our Lord and Saviour, we pray, Amen

P: Closing Prayer & Benediction
Father, as the world brings down the values of justice and peace, we submit ourselves to lead a transparent life, seeking your will. We submit ourselves to preserve our faith even in the midst of testing fire, hold on to the Word of God in the midst of temptations, to discipline ourselves through participation in worship and sacraments and to preserve our lives in purity. Help us to remain steadfast in our commitment always.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. † Amen

Doxology and Kiss of Peace

Friend of God

Who am I that you are mindful of me
That you hear me, when I call
Is it true that you are thinking of me
How you love me, it’s amazing (Who am I Lord)

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend
God Almighty
Lord of Glory
You have called me friend
PHILLIPS, CRAIG & DEAN Lyrics