

**POETRY READING:** ISAIAH 43:16–21

**PROSE READING:** JOHN 10:11–18

I am not the captain of my own destiny,  
nor even of this new work, and so  
I renounce again all claim  
to my own life and desires.  
I am only yours, O Lord.  
Lead me by your mercies through this season,  
that I might spend my hours well,  
not in harried pursuit of my own agendas,  
but rather in good service to you.

Teach me to shepherd these small duties  
with great love,  
tending faithfully to those tasks  
you place within my care  
and tending with patience and  
kindness the needs and hearts of  
those people you place within my reach.

Nothing is too hard for you, Lord Christ.  
I deposit now all confidence in you  
that whatever this journey brings,  
my foundations will not be shaken.

In all things your grace will sustain me.  
Bid me follow, and I will follow.

Amen.

AN ENTRY ON

## Beginning Something New

FROM "A LITURGY FOR  
FIRST WAKING"

"DO NOT REMEMBER  
THE PAST EVENTS;  
PAY NO ATTENTION TO  
THINGS OF OLD.  
LOOK, I AM ABOUT TO DO  
SOMETHING NEW;  
EVEN NOW IT IS COMING.  
DO YOU NOT SEE IT?  
INDEED, I WILL MAKE A WAY IN  
THE WILDERNESS,  
RIVERS IN THE DESERT."  
—ISAIAH 43:18–19

- What might it look like for you to renounce your claim to this new work, recognizing that much of it is out of your control? Are there any parts of this new endeavor you feel you are trying to accomplish purely by your own strength and will? If so, why?
  
- Consider the new works of the Lord. What does it look like for the Lord to begin a new thing, and how might you embrace the renewing work of God in this new task?
  
- Consider the image of Christ as shepherd as you seek to shepherd these small duties before you. How might you follow in the footsteps of Jesus in this, imitating his gentle strength and his trust in the Father?

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER:**