

APRIL 8, 2023
EASTER VIGIL



A new life in Christ.

EASTER VIGIL BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Easter Vigil celebration.

Saturday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	Creation story
	Psalms 136:1-9, 23-26	Give thanks to the Lord
	Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21	Exodus from Egypt
	Psalms 19	God of creation and instruction
	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
	Romans 6:3-11	Alive in Christ
	Matthew 28:1-10	Jesus has been raised

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

Almighty and merciful God, you have raised Jesus from the dead. Alleluia! We thank you for raising us up to a new life in Christ to be with you always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you water the earth and bring forth food from the earth. We give you thanks for this meal through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who raised Jesus from the dead make you alive in Christ Jesus now and always.



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HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia



EASTER VIGIL MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories? Why is it important to you?
- The Bible tells the story of God's saving deeds and our human frailty. What is something about the story of God's love and mercy for us that continues to surprise you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 6:3-11.

The Easter Vigil is the earliest Christian worship service observed annually. It is the time to gather as a worshipping community, hear the story of God's saving work from biblical readings, and welcome in new brothers and sisters in the faith through baptism. Historically those who were to be baptized and were older had been shepherded by a Christian who helped them learn the faith, pray the Lord's Prayer, and live the Christian life. For the newly baptized, it was the first time they witnessed the Holy Communion liturgy and received the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ in worship. All of this emphasized the new life in Christ by confessing the faith together, giving testimony to caring for widows, orphans, and others in need, and receiving the sacraments. The life of the baptized reflects the life that has died to the old way of living and is raised to live with Christ in all our relationships.

Discuss: How is it helpful to your faith journey to think or talk about your baptism?

Pray: **Eternal God, you who raised Jesus from the dead, we thank you that in baptism you bring us from death to walk in newness of life now and always. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you care for widows, orphans, and others in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the Easter Vigil we are reminded of the many stories in the Bible about God saving God's people. The Easter Vigil is a time to read several Old Testament stories, sit quietly in reflection, and meditate on God's work in history. Gather around a fire pit or a lighted candle and tell one or more of the following stories in your own words or read them from the Bible: Creation, Noah and the Flood, Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice, the Exodus of the Israelites (Moses and the Red Sea), Jonah and the Whale, and the Fiery Furnace (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego). After the stories, sit for a moment in silence.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org