

APRIL 20, 2019  
EASTER VIGIL



*Christ is risen, alleluia!*

## EASTER VIGIL BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1–2:4a</b>	<b>Creation story</b>
	<b>Genesis 22:1-18</b>	<b>The sacrifice of Isaac</b>
	<b>Exodus 14:10–15:1</b>	<b>The Israelites cross the Red Sea</b>
	<b>Isaiah 55:1-11</b>	<b>A hymn of triumph</b>
	<b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b>	<b>The valley of dry bones</b>
	<b>Romans 6:3-11</b>	<b>Baptized into Christ</b>
	<b>Psalms 118</b>	<b>The wonders of God</b>
	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b>	<b>Jesus is alive</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” **Luke 24:5 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Easter Vigil:**

Almighty God, you are the author and creator of all life. We thank you for your mercy and care that gives us new life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who give us the Bread of Life, bless us as we receive food for our bodies and strength for our souls through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be your rock and your redeemer and bless the words of your mouth and the meditations of your heart. (Psalm 19:14)



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## HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

*Be Not Afraid*



## 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 wondrous deeds and our human frailty. What is something about the story of God’s love and mercy for us that continues to surprise you?
- How does Jesus’ resurrection make a difference in your life?

## DEVOTIONS



Beginning with the early church, the Easter Vigil was the time to baptize people into the body of Christ. It was the time to recall that to be baptized into Christ was to be baptized into his death and resurrection (Romans 6:3). In the Bible, each new day begins in the evening, “And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.” (Genesis 1:5), so celebrating Easter Sunday began at sundown on Saturday. Celebrate the Easter Vigil any time after the sun has gone down on April 20. Light a number of candles in your home or turn down the lights to focus on the readings from the Bible. Have a small bowl of water near the Bible to recall your baptism or anticipation of baptism. Read each of the Easter Vigil Bible Readings followed by silence, reflection, and praying the prayer below. After the final reading (Luke 24:1-12) and prayer, conclude by dipping your fingers into the bowl of water, make the sign of the cross on your forehead and say: **Alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia.**

*Pray:* **Dear God, your work of love and salvation amaze and delight us. Give us faith to live in the power of Christ’s resurrection. Alleluia.**

## SERVICE



In Genesis 1:1–2:4a, we read of God’s creation of the heavens and the earth, darkness and light, the waters, the birds, creeping things, and every living creature. And God saw that it was good. Earth Day is recognized this week around the world. It is a day to uplift and highlight environmental protection. God created a magnificent planet for us. Think of ways you can help to protect God’s creation.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Easter Vigil is a time to keep watch and pray and takes place after sunset. An old tradition was to put out all lamps and fires in the home and go to the Easter Vigil. After returning home, the lamps were relit. This Easter Vigil turn all the lights off in your home. Then light a candle and say: **“and God saw that the light was good and God separated the light from the darkness”** (Genesis 1:4). Turn the house lights back on. Discuss or think about Christ’s victory over death and darkness and conclude by saying: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**



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