

APRIL 11, 2020
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.

Saturday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	Creation story
	Genesis 22:1-18	The sacrifice of Isaac
	Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21	Exodus from Egypt
	Isaiah 55:1-11	A hymn of triumph
	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Valley of dry bones
	Romans 6:3-11	Alive in Christ
	Psalms 114	God's deliverance of the people
	Matthew 28:1-10	Jesus has been raised

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

Matthew 28:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

Almighty God, just as you raised Jesus from the dead, we thank you for raising us to a new life, now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and food for us now; for this meal we give you thanks through Christ our Lord, amen. (Isaiah 55:10)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who raised Jesus from the dead and the power of the Holy Spirit make you alive to God in Christ Jesus now and always. (Romans 6:11)



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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:

- How has the season of Lent been a gift to your life of faith?
- How has Lent prepared you for the message of Easter?
- How might the good news of Christ's resurrection renew you today?

DEVOTIONS



The readings for the Easter Vigil give a summary of God's saving work in history, from the gift of creation and God's plan to reject human sacrifices, to the new birth of Israel foretold by Ezekiel and the resurrection of Jesus. The Easter Vigil is that one time of year to read several Bible texts, sit quietly in reflection, and meditate on God's work in history. It is also a time to baptize people into the Christian faith. As it states in Romans 6:4, "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." Through baptism Christ's death and resurrection shapes our life as well. We experience a daily dying to the old self and the rising of the new self to live with God now and always. Christ's resurrection impacts not only our future resurrection, but a daily resurrection that frees us from our old sinful selves and for the love of God and neighbor. How do you see Christ's resurrection freeing you today to live for God and others?

Pray: Dear God, may the Spirit of Christ give us new life that we may celebrate with you and all the saints that Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

SERVICE



The African American slave's spiritual song, *Dem Bones* is from the story of the valley of dry bones from Ezekiel 37:1-14. The song gave a vision of hope and freedom. There are still many places in the world today where people are not free. Pray that those who seek freedom may hear the word of the Lord. Keep the work of missionaries in your prayers.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The word *Alleluia* is traditionally not used during Lent. It is "buried" in Lent to be resurrected with Easter. Remove the black cloth that was placed on the Lenten Candle Cross on Good Friday. Light the white candle in the center of the cross and share the good news by saying: **Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**



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