

MARCH 31, 2018
EASTER VIGIL



Raised to newness of life.

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 |
| | Exodus 14:10-31 | Exodus from Egypt |
| | Isaiah 55:1-11 | A hymn of triumph |
| | Ezekiel 37:1-14 | The valley of dry bones |
| | Romans 6:3-11 | Alive in Christ |
| | Psalms 136:1-9, 23-26 | Thanksgiving for the Lord's deeds |
| | Mark 16:1-8 | The tomb is empty |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

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 6:4 (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:

Dear God, may the food on the table remind us of our need for you, for daily bread, and our hope in you for life eternal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of God's and the Lord of Lord's bless you with God's steadfast love that endures forever. (Psalm 136:2-3)



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HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

*We Know that Christ
Is Raised*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is something that excites you about the resurrection?
- How are you already living in the resurrection?
- How does the new life in Christ set you free?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 6:3-11.

From the time of the early church, the Easter Vigil has been the occasion to celebrate the resurrection by baptizing people into the body of Christ. Baptism is God's act of joining us to the death and resurrection of Jesus that leads to a new way of life for the baptized. Once the sun has set on March 31, light candles (or start an outside bonfire), and read the Easter Vigil Bible Readings. They are a sampling of the biblical story of God's saving work that finds its most complete expression in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Keep a moment of silence for prayer and reflection after each text is read. After the final Bible reading and silence, pray the following prayer:

Pray: Dear good and gracious God, on this most holy night, the night of Christ's rising from the dead, we thank you for the gift of baptism that joins us to your saving work and gives us new life in this age and in the age to come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

The good news of Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death gave birth to a new life in Christ. Part of the new life has shown itself for nearly 2,000 years of care for orphans, widows, refugees, the hungry, the homeless, and all those who suffer from daily want. Make a special mission gift to your local congregation or larger church organization that serves the needs of people around the world. Let it be a gift of thanksgiving for the newness of life Christ has given you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Now that the season of Lent is over we can now use *Alleluia*. The word *Alleluia* is traditionally not used during Lent. It is "buried" in Lent to be resurrected with Easter. Use paper or a cloth to make an Alleluia banner. If children are present, hide the Alleluia banner and let them find it. Then post it someplace for all to see. Share the good news with one another 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