

APRIL 16, 2022
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 observance.

Saturday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	Creation story
	Genesis 22:1-18	The sacrifice of Isaac
	Exodus 14:10–15:1	The Israelites cross the Red Sea
	Psalms 114	God's wonders at the exodus
	Isaiah 55:1-11	A hymn of triumph
	Ezekiel 37:1-14	The valley of dry bones
	Romans 6:3-11	Baptized into Christ
	Psalms 19	God's glory in creation and the law
	Luke 24:1-12	Jesus is alive

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

*But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. **Luke 24:12 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

God of power and glory, thank you for all that do you for us through the Risen Christ; help us to be amazed each and every day at your steadfast love and mercy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as Christ's resurrection shows us your glory and power, so does this food, a gift of your creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be amazed to believe that Christ is risen. Alleluia!



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APRIL 14-16, 2022

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:

- When you feel discouraged, what do you do? Who do you talk with?
- What amazes you and fills you with hope or excitement?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:1-12.

Easter is not only a time to focus on good news, but on amazing news. In a world where cynicism, divisions, and discouragement are present, it can be challenging to trust any rumors of hope. In our account of Christ's resurrection in Luke 24, the disciples go from hearing what seemed like "an idle tale" from women to something much more. Peter runs to Jesus' tomb and sees it as the women described it. Peter was amazed at what had happened. The Easter Vigil gives us the broader story of God's care for us and the goodness of God's creative and saving work so that we may have confidence in the amazing story of Jesus' resurrection. God does not want our lives to be dominated by cynicism or discouragement. God wants us to be truly amazed by the astonishing reality of God's love that is most fully seen in Jesus Christ's sacrifice of love from the cross and empty tomb.

Discuss: Do you identify most with the women, Peter, or the other apostles? Why?

Pray: **God of glory and might, we thank you that your ways are filled with hope and love for us and for all your creation through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Easter Vigil Bible Readings and theme for this day, to whom do you want to tell the amazing story of Jesus' love?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Easter Vigil begins at sunset. As darkness begins, we think of Genesis 1 and the creation story, "and darkness covered the face of the deep" (v. 2). At sunset, gather around a fire or light candles on a table to represent God's creation of light. This is a time to revisit sacred stories of our faith. As darkness grows, read the words listed here and tell what you remember of the story: God/Creation; Isaac/Sacrifice of Abraham; Moses/Red Sea; and Ezekiel/Valley of Dry Bones. Think about the new life God gives in these stories and the new life given to us through our baptism in Christ. After a moment of silence and gazing into the light, conclude by saying: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.**



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