

MARCH 30, 2024
EASTER VIGIL



There is power in Jesus' resurrection.

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 114	The Lord works wonders
	Mark 16:1-8	Jesus is alive

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

But he [young man in a white robe] said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."

Mark 16:6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

Awesome God, you who create life and hope where it was not before, we thank you for the promise of forgiveness and life everlasting through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who rule with goodness and mercy, we thank you for your act of love that gives us this meal, in the name of our risen Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ give you joy.



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HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

The Day of Resurrection!



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 Jesus' tomb was found empty, the disciples fled with fear and confusion. How would you have felt and what would you have done?
- What questions do you have about Jesus' resurrection?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 16:1-8.

For those not familiar with the ending in Mark 16, one might understandably ask, "What happened to the Easter stories?" Early Christian scribes must have wondered the same thing because later manuscripts added words more fitting to our expectations. However, Mark's original gospel text ends at verse 8 with the women silent and fearful. All four Gospels end with disciples experiencing disbelief or fear. Our human frailty never leaves us, but then again, neither does God. Silence and fear do not get the last word. Despite human fears and confusion, the word got out! That just might sum up quite well the power of the resurrection. While we will always have difficulty grasping the reality of Jesus' resurrection and our discipleship, both happen anyway. Why? Because from the beginning to the end, the hope and power of life eternal is God's gift to overcome our fears, doubts, disbelief, and confusion. When we struggle as Jesus' disciples, God's reign still wins out for us and for all of God's creation.

Discuss: What doubts or thoughts do you have about the resurrection?

Pray: **Almighty God, it is your will to show mercy to all that you have made. We thank you for the gift of new life through the power of Christ's death and resurrection. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Easter Vigil Readings and theme for this day, how can you help someone to overcome their doubts and fears?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Easter Vigil is about the newness of life in Jesus. From the time of the early church, it has been a time to celebrate the resurrection by baptizing people into the body of Christ. At our baptism we are given new life. Light all seven candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross that have been used during Lent. Read Romans 6:3-11. Think about or tell stories about your own or another person's baptism. After sharing, sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Dear God, on this most holy night of Christ's rising from the dead, we thank you for the gift of baptism that gives us new life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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