

APRIL 15, 2017
EASTER VIGIL
RESURRECTION OF
OUR LORD



A new life in Christ.

EASTER VIGIL BIBLE READINGS

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

Saturday	Romans 6:3-11	Alive in Christ
	Psalms 114	The Lord works wonders
	Matthew 28:1-10	He has risen!

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

When Christ died, he died for sin once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God. **Romans 6:10-11 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

Lord Jesus, you have given us life. Help us to live for you today and everyday. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, you have given us life through your only Son. Your love reminds us to be thankful each day for the food you have given us. May we seek to reflect all you have done for us each day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your life in Christ take darkness away and gift you with light and joy now and forever.



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A HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

I'm Goin' on a Journey



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- In the fall, leaves begin to fall off the trees, flowers wilt and die, and we spend less time outdoors. What “new life” do you look forward to seeing after winter?
- The idea of death and resurrection is a hard one to understand. How has Jesus given you or someone you know new life?
- In Matthew 28, the angels tell the two women at the tomb to not be afraid and tell the disciples Jesus has risen from the dead. They run to tell the disciples and see Jesus along the way. Where have you met and seen Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



The Easter Vigil is about the new life in Jesus that is discovered by two women when they find the empty tomb. In baptism we are given new life and in many congregations, this is the time for baptisms to take place. During the Easter Vigil we are reminded of the many stories in the Bible about salvation and God saving his people. Read the following scripture verses and take some time after each reading to reflect on what takes place and how God through Jesus came to give us new life. Consider acting out each story as it is read.

1. Genesis 1:1-2, 4a - Creation
2. Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-16—The Flood
3. Genesis 22:1-18—Abraham offers Isaac as a Sacrifice
4. Exodus 14: 10-31, 15: 20-21—Deliverance at the Red Sea
5. Daniel 3: 1-29 —Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace

After the readings are done, close by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

SERVICE



Mary and Mary Magdalene discovered an empty tomb. An angel told them to go and tell the disciples and they met and were greeted by Jesus on their way to tell the good news. In today's world we are Jesus hands and feet. As we go about our daily routines, take some time to stop and reflect on who you could bless with the joy of this good news through good deeds and acts of kindness. Whose life can you touch today?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



At our baptism we are given new birth in Christ. The gift of baptism continues daily throughout our life. Light a candle and gather around it to tell stories about each person's baptism. Talk about where it happened, who was present, and discuss ways you can remember your baptism daily. Consider lighting a candle each day during dinner or at bedtime and ask one person to say, “This is the day the Lord has made.” Others respond, “Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”



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