APRIL 19, 2025
EASTER VIGIL

taking faith home

God is the author and creator of new life.

EASTER VIGIL 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—15:1	**The Israelites cross the Red Sea**
	Isaiah 55:1-11	**A hymn of triumph**
	Ezekiel 37:1-14	**The valley of dry bones**
	Romans 6:3-11	**Baptized into Christ**
	Psalm 19	**The wonders of God**
	Luke 24:1-12	**Jesus is alive**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
Genesis 1:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:
Gracious God, you are the author and creator of all life. We thank you for your mercy and steadfast love that forgives us and gives us new life through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, you who are the source of all life, bless us as we receive food for our bodies and strength for our souls through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with new life in Christ.

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HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

Be Not Afraid

taking faith home

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:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories? What do you remember learning from this story?
- What amazes you about the resurrection of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 1:1—2:4a and Romans 6:3-11.
God creates out of nothing. God gives life where it was not present before. That is the point of the earth being without form and where only darkness and waters were present. In ancient times, darkness and waters conveyed chaos. Where nothing exists except lifeless chaos, God creates what was not possible before. The repeated use of the term "good" to describe what God created does not simply mean a moral good but a wonderful goodness filled with beauty. What God created was beautiful. On this Easter Vigil, we praise God for God's act of Christ's resurrection. We also give thanks for joining Christ in his death and resurrection through baptism. It is our new creation experience 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 6:4b). On this night we delight in all that God does as Creator and Redeemer. God's work for us and for all is filled with glory and beauty.
Discuss: What does it mean to you that you are part of God's new creation that is filled with glory and beauty?
Pray: **Dear God, your work of love and new beginnings amaze and delight us. Give us faith to live in the power of Christ's resurrection every day of our lives. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Easter Vigil Bible Readings and theme, in what way can you help protect God's creation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Easter Vigil takes place after sunset. It is a time to keep watch and pray. An old tradition was to put out all lamps and fires in the home and go to the Easter Vigil. After returning home, the lamps were relit. Turn all the lights off in your home. Place a candle on or near the cross drawn on the paper on the first week in Lent. Reflect on the words of the Lord's Prayer from Luke 11:2-4 that were written around the cross.
Read: **"and God saw that the light was good and God separated the light from the darkness"** (Genesis 1:4).
Light the candle and say: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.**

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