

APRIL 3, 2021
EASTER VIGIL



God's creative work.

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 |
| | 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 | The tomb is empty |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you love what you have created and through Jesus, our Lord, you promise us the new creation of resurrection life for us to live, now and always. Amen.
Alleluia.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for your work of creation that freely gives us food and drink, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen. Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, give you newness of life. (Romans 6:4)



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HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL

Oh, Sing to God Above



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 something you think is really beautiful?
- What does it mean to you that what God creates is both good and beautiful?
- The theme of the Easter Vigil is God's creative work. Why is it important to know that Jesus' resurrection is part of a whole new creation?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 1:1–2:4a.

This creation story is filled with hope and joy. When God creates and sees that it is "good," the good noted there is not just a moral good. It is a "well done," even "beautiful" good. That is how the creation story begins. We know that sin still enters in and destroys much of the joy, although God never lets go of the hope for something better. That something better is the new creation brought about through the resurrection of Jesus. The Apostle Paul describes that "something better" through our baptism as a way to join Jesus in his death and his resurrection that "we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Our God is the Creator God who promises and creates something new, more glorious, and permanent through Christ's victory over sin, death, and evil. God never lets go of creation. With Easter we give thanks that God promises a new creation, a new life that knows no end. Alleluia. How do you find hope and joy in the creation story?

Pray: **Creator God, you have given us newness of life through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We give thanks for your goodness and mercy. Amen.**

SERVICE

God loves what God creates and it is created good and beautiful. How does that influence how you treat God's creation today? What could you do this week that shows your appreciation for God's creation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Easter Vigil is about the newness of life in Jesus. At our baptism we are given new life. The gift of baptism continues daily throughout our life. Light a candle and read Romans 6:3-11. Reflect on the reading for a moment and then tell stories about your own baptism or that of another. Think about ways you can remember your baptism daily.



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