



“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

Calvary Lutheran Church

17 East 27th Street

Scottsbluff, NE

(308) 632-8023

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Easter Vigil

5:30 p.m.

April 8, 2023

A Warm Welcome to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Visitors, we are especially glad to have you worshiping with us tonight.

(In preparation for our worship, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)

***INDICATES PLEASE STAND IF ABLE.**
Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type

Gathering in the Narthex

Welcome and Announcements

†Lighting of the Paschal Candle†

(Our Service Begins in the Narthex)

*The Paschal Candle (symbolizing Christ) is lit
and each individual candle is lit from a lighted candle.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Pastor bearing the Paschal Candle
leads the procession into the chancel, pausing three times saying:*

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Once in the sanctuary the Pastor greets the people saying:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

Holy God, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The individual candles are extinguished as the congregation is seated.

‡Liturgy of the Word‡

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Story of Creation

Psalm 104:1-6, 12-14, 19, 23-24

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

²wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,

⁴you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

⁵You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

¹²By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the
branches.

¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of
your work.

¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth
food from the earth,

¹⁹You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

²³People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

²⁴O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth
is full of your creatures.

Hymn:

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

ELW #879

vv. 1-2

**1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.**

**2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.**

Let us pray...

**O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of
human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled
himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-11, 13-16, 19-30a, 15:20-21

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians
advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD.

¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt?" ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; ^{15:20}Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

"Hymn:

"The Day of Resurrection"

ELW #361

v. 1

**The Day of Resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW #801

**Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like you.
 You are the potter; I am the clay.
 Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Valley of the Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Hymn:

“Spirit of the Living God”

OSB #195

**Spirit of the Living God...fall afresh on me
Spirit of the Living God...fall afresh on me
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the Living God...fall afresh on me.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

‡The Renewal of Baptismal Vows‡

Having heard the story of salvation and the promise of new life given through our baptism. I ask you to renew your Commitment to Jesus Christ, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Let us pray.

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

Response after the announcement of the gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But 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.

Response after the gospel reading:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

PMA Bill Huelle

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation)

+WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD+

Hymn:

“Thine is the Glory”

**ELW #376
vv. 1&2**

**1. Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

Refrain: **Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!**

**2. Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting!**

Refrain

***Prayers of the People**

On this most holy night, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give.

Amen.

Holy God, we pray for your holy catholic Church

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, pastors, and church workers;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others especially....And those we name before you in the silence of our hearts.....Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayers.**

On this most holy night, O God of resurrection, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)

***Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

‡The Lord's Supper‡

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***Invitation to Communion**

Come. For this is the feast of victory for all God's people!

Distribution of Communion:

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are invited to participate in the Lord's meal.

Communion will be served in a semi-circle in the front of the church.

WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.

Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)

Distribution Music

Dee Brady

***Blessing and Prayer after Communion**

Mighty and compassionate God, you have brought us over from death to life through your Son, our risen Savior, and you have fed us with the food of life in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE‡

***Benediction**

The God of life, who raised Jesus from the bonds of death, who sends forth the Spirit to renew the face of the earth, be merciful to you and † bless you, now and forever.
Amen.

***Hymn:**

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

**ELW #365
vv. 1-3**

- 1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
- 3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

***Dismissal**

Go in joy and peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Caleb Payne** (Hospice), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Elnora Sell**, **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Jan Van Newkirk**, **Wes Sell**, **Susan Martin** (recovering from a fall), **Linda Spomer** (healing/pain from broken back), **Lee Saip** (recovering due to an infection—Wes & Elnora’s son-in-law), **Perry Crom** (health issues-nephew of Shirlie Schuldies), **Willard Rusch** (recovering from a fall—Becca Pierce’s father), **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering from heart surgery), **Catherine Rahrs** (blood clots—Val Rahrs’ mother), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Florence Schmidt** (Carol Bosshardt’s mother).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson).



Bob Zweifel, 4/12

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.

Thank you to everyone who provided an Easter lily for our sanctuary this Easter.



Virginia Pickett & Family

In memory of

**her brother Larry Stahla, her husband Lloyd Pickett, her parents Carl & Fern Stahla
and her husband's parents Ernest & Effie Pickett**

Marv Braaten

In memory of

**his wife Alice Braaten, his parents Hans & Mabel Braaten, his brother Glen Braaten,
Alice's parents Sam & Betty Backer, and brother-in-law Don Stormoe.**

Jean Stormoe

In memory of

her sister Alice Braaten, her husband Don Stormoe and her parents Sam & Betty Backer.

Pam Eskam

In memory of

her husband Gary Eskam.

Marlene Downer

In memory of

her husband Wayne Downer.

Mark & Shelly Koehler

In honor of

Healthcare workers & first responders.

Bill & Chris Thomas

In memory of

loved ones lost.



YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: www.calvalrylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



APRIL FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Pancake Mix

BACKPACKS: Mac 'n Cheese Bowls

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



CLCW APRIL MISSION PROJECT: CALVARY KITCHEN SHOWER

A box will be placed in the Reception Area on the table under the CLCW bulletin board next to the narthex door to receive items needed for the kitchen. The kitchen could use the following:

Paper plates, paper towels, napkins, Styrofoam & plastic cups.

Cash donations are also welcome; be sure to clearly mark them 'Kitchen Shower'.

Be sure to designate CLCW on the envelope.



April 9: Easter Sunday

Easter Service at 10:30am! Come join us for our Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 am before church!



Laundry Love

Calvary has partnered with St. Francis Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to provide a monthly Laundry Love Event in our community. Calvary will host Laundry Love every 3rd month; our next event is April 15th. In preparation for that day, we will need quarters as well as dryer sheets, softener and laundry detergent. So, save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastor's offices.



WORSHIP LEADERS

This Sunday – April 9

USHERS: Monty & Shari Copsey
LAY READER: Marti Wegelin
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Barb Jensen
COMMUNION ASSTS: Rick & Lynn Margheim
POWERPOINT: Matt Payne
ACOLYTES: Ben Moravec & Max Judy
MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten
AUDIO: Jack Martin
ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: Margheim's

Next Sunday – April 16

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub
LAY READER: Angie Hinze
HEAD COMMUNION ASST: Vicki Howell
COMMUNION ASSTS: Deb Brown & Marlene Downer
POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn
ACOLYTES: Rhyan Buckley & Merrick Walsh
MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten
AUDIO: Jim Dorn
ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey
ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP: *Please sign up!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 a.m. – Worship

Monday, April 10

2 p.m. – Priscilla Circle @ Fellowship Hall
6 p.m. – Council
7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Diane Vandenberg's

Tuesday, April 11

12 p.m. – Sarah Study
1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, April 12

5:30 p.m. – JAM
7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, April 15

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, April 16

10 a.m. – Worship
11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

**APRIL 8, 2023
EASTER VIGIL**



A new life in Christ.

EASTER VIGIL BIBLE READINGS

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

Saturday Genesis 1:1–2:4a

Creation story

Psalms 136:1-9, 23-26

Give thanks to the Lord

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Exodus from Egypt

Psalms 19

God of creation and instruction

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Valley of dry bones

Romans 6:3-11

Alive in Christ

Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus has been raised

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EASTER VIGIL

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, 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 6:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Easter Vigil:

Almighty and merciful God, you have raised Jesus from the dead. Alleluia! We thank you for raising us up to a new life in Christ to be with you always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, you water the earth and bring forth food from the earth. We give you thanks for this meal through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who raised Jesus from the dead make you alive in Christ Jesus now and always.



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APRIL 8, 2023

HYMN FOR EASTER VIGIL
Christ Hos 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:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories? Why is it important to you?
- The Bible tells the story of God's saving deeds and our human frailty. What is something about the story of God's love and mercy for us that continues to surprise you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 6:3-11

The Easter Vigil is the earliest Christian worship service observed annually. It is the time to gather as a worshipping community, hear the story of God's saving work from biblical readings, and welcome in new brothers and sisters in the faith through baptism. Historically those who were to be baptized and were older had been shepherded by a Christian who helped them learn the faith, pray the Lord's Prayer, and live the Christian life. For the newly baptized, it was the first time they witnessed the Holy Communion liturgy and received the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ in worship. All of this emphasized the new life in Christ by confessing the faith together, giving testimony to caring for widows, orphans, and others in need, and receiving the sacraments. The life of the baptized reflects the life that has died to the old way of living and is raised to live with Christ in all our relationships.

Discuss: How is it helpful to your faith journey to think or talk about your baptism?
Pray: Eternal God, you who raised Jesus from the dead, we thank you that in baptism you bring us from death to walk in newness of life now and always. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you care for widows, orphans, and others in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the Easter Vigil we are reminded of the many stories in the Bible about God saving God's people. The Easter Vigil is a time to read several Old Testament stories, sit quietly in reflection, and meditate on God's work in history. Gather around a fire pit or a lighted candle and tell one or more of the following stories in your own words or read them from the Bible: Creation, Noah and the Flood, Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice, the Exodus of the Israelites (Moses and the Red Sea), Jonah and the Whale, and the Fiery Furnace (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego). After the stories, sit for a moment in silence.



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

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