

CELEBRATING HOLY SATURDAY

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: In the evening, gather together to celebrate the start of the Easter Season, normally celebrated at the great Easter Vigil. A simple prayer space can be created with white/gold table clothes, candles, crucifix, and/or plants and flowers. This opportunity to pray at home allows the faithful to live the Easter mystery in this time. Gather the household around the table, perhaps after a light meal. Light a large candle. Place a bowl of water on the table. Mark the Bible for Matthew 28:1-10 and Romans 6:3-11. The Leader parts may be taken up by various members or by one person. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply conclude the prayer time.

1. Service of Light

(Light candles and turn off other lights; use another light for reading if necessary.)

Leader: With this lighted candle, let us recall Christ in our midst who is yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega, and to whom belongs all the ages, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: Christ is our light.

All: Thanks be to God.

All sing: This little light of mine, I'm gonna it shine,

This little light of mine, I'm gonna it shine,

This little light of mine, I'm gonna it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

3. Renewal of Baptism

Leader: Let us call on the saints to pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Holy Angels of God, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Saints Peter and Saint Paul, pray for us.

Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us.

Saint Stephen, pray for us.

Saint Agnes, pray for us.

Saint _____ pray for us.

All holy men and women, pray for us.

Leader: May this water remind us of the grace of Baptism. O God, your chosen people were saved from the flood and passed dry shod through the Red Sea Your Son made water holy in the Jordan giving us the baptismal bath of regeneration. We give you thanks and praise through that same Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

[All make the sign of the cross with water.]

Reader: [Open the Bible and read aloud
Romans 6:3-11: on Baptism into Christ.]

2. Recalling Salvation History in the Word of God

Leader: Let us recall the wonderful works of God in the history of salvation.

God of all creation, you spoke and everything was made. You saw how good, how wonderful it was. We cherish, we respect this gift of creation and give you thanks and praise:

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: God of Abraham and Sarah, you spared their son Isaac as they strove to sacrifice everything they loved to worship you. Because you spare us, too, and bless us and fill us with grace, we give you thanks and praise:

God of Moses and the Israelites, you brought the people you chose from slavery in Egypt through the sea to safety. Because you save us this day and every day from all that holds us back from following you, we give you thanks and praise:

God of all tenderness,
you saved Noah, his family, and creatures from the flood.

Because you save us so that no affliction separates us from your love,
we give you thanks and praise:

O God, you constantly call us to yourself
and feed us with your grace and mercy.

In striving to seek you, to keep you near that we may hear your voice,
and, prompted by your grace, to do your will, we give you thanks and praise:

Mighty God of Jacob, no other is compared to you.

All we see and all we hear is from you.

Because you protect us this day as we follow in your way and live in enduring
peace, we give you thanks and praise:

God of relentless affection, nothing we do can keep you from loving us.
You wash us clean of what defiles, you renew our hearts to love you more,
and your fill us with your Spirit.

Because we are your people and you are our God, we give you thanks and
praise:

Let us continue to give God praise as we say:

All: Glory be....

Reader: [Open the Bible and read aloud Matthew 28:1-10:
on how Jesus has been raised and tells us, "Do not be afraid."]



3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: This night, let us make our annual renewal of promises made in Baptism.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works? R:/

Leader: And all his empty promises? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? R:/

This is our faith.

This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus.

4. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let us grieve that we cannot celebrate Mass this night nor share in Christ's Body and Blood. Let us long for the day when our hunger for Communion will be fed and our thirst for it slaked. Until that day, let us pray for the health of everyone and pledge to do what we can for those who need shelter, food, protection, and compassion. May almighty God bless us all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

Here is the list of readings and psalms for the Easter Vigil. The week that follows Easter, the Octave of Easter, is a week of solemnities. Spend some time each day, if you are able, with a reading or a psalm. Give thanks for what God continues to do in our lives.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
Lectionary for Mass, no. 41, Year A.

1. Genesis 1:1-2:2 – *on creation.*

Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 – (30) *Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

OR Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 – (5b) *The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.*

2. Genesis 22:1-18 – *on Abraham's sacrifice.*

Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 – (1) *You are my inheritance, O Lord.*

3. Exodus 14:15-15:1 – *on the passage through the Red Sea.*

Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 – (1b) *Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.*

4. Isaiah 54:5-14 – *on the new Jerusalem.*

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 – (2a) *I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.*

5. Isaiah 55:1-11 – *on salvation freely offered.*

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 – (3) *You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

6. Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4 – *on the fountain of wisdom.*

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11 – (John 6:68c) *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

7. Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28 – *on a new heart and new spirit.*

When baptism is celebrated

Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 – (42:2) *Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.*

When baptism is not celebrated

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 – (3) *You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

OR Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 – (12a) *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

Romans 6:3-11 – *on Baptism into Christ.*

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 – *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Matthew 28:1-10 – *on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

A Shocking First Morning. Two Marys come to the tomb at dawn and are shocked by a great earthquake, an angel coming like lightning, and soldiers shaken with fear. "Do not be afraid," the angel says to the women. The same words spoken to mother Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds by other angels years before. The same words spoken by the Risen Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection. The Same words spoken to us today. And every day.

- * What do I fear that I need to stop fearing?
- * How will this risen and renewed life fill me with grace?
- * What will I do this Easter week to share life, bring life, be the very presence of the life-giving Christ the Lord?