

Easter Vigil - April 8 2023

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of First Nations peoples across the nation. We acknowledge the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Context - The Easter Vigil

The Paschal Triduum concludes with the Easter Vigil and the Church replaces her sense of mourning with a sense of anticipation. The celebration of the Easter Vigil is unlike any other celebration in the Church year. There are typically four parts to the Vigil: The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil, Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Liturgy and Liturgy of the Eucharist- each contributing to the grandeur of this night of nights for the Church.

Scripture: Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end'.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.



Shutterstock stock illustration ID: 569517097. Easter candle - Abstract artistic pastel style Christian religious background. By Thoom

Reflection by Kirby Will Project Officer Identity and Outreach.

The Psalm included in this prayer resource is one of more than ten scripture passages used during the Easter Vigil. It is the last Responsorial Psalm sung before we hear the Gospel. Repeated twice in the first verse is the phrase 'his love has no end'. It can be hard sometimes to remember this phrase to be true, especially when we feel as though we are not deserving of this love. When we do not accept the unending love, we can find ourselves in a tomb of our own; we dwell in the darkness and live a half-existence. But, tonight in the Easter Vigil, Jesus calls us out of the tomb and to rise with him to new life, a life in the light of the love of God.



Figure 1 Behold the place where they laid him (engraving).
Illustration. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, Dec 06 2017. quest.eb.com/images/108_2310924. Accessed 6 Apr 2023.

Even in the final tomb of death, God's love has no end. Death is not the end for Jesus and the Resurrection offers this same hope to all of us. God's love has no end - our transgressions do not cause this love to cease, nothing can cause the love God's has for us to cease, not even death!

Prayer: *This prayer is from Holy Week at Home published by Liturgical Press.*

Loving God,
We celebrate your saving work
through our ancestors in faith,
the Resurrection of your Son,
and in our own lives today.
Give us the courage to confront the darkness of this world,
knowing that the Risen Christ brings light and life to all.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Call to Action:

- attend an Easter Vigil at your local parish.
- Gather the family around a bonfire in the backyard or light a candle. Talk about it: The Easter Vigil begins with the symbol of fire. Talk about how fire represents that Jesus is the light of the world. He brings light to the darkness and new life to a sleeping world. What are some other symbols of resurrection? (Water, the colour white, the transformation of a butterfly, Easter eggs, etc.).
- pray the [Exsultet](#) together.

