



עדת חי ושלום

17 NISAN 5786
EASTER VIGIL
APRIL 4, 2026
PASSING THROUGH
THE WATERS
FAMILY DEVOTION



AS WE GATHER

"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:3-4) This last portion of the triduum (three days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter) is really the first celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the ancient Christian Church, worshipers would spend the entire night before Easter waiting and watching for the sunrise, at which time they would celebrate the first Eucharist of the Easter celebration. During this night-long vigil, those who had been prepared to join the Christian church would be baptized, and the entire congregation would pass the hours listening to Scripture and in prayer. The focus of our worship is on the close connection between our baptism and being raised to new life in Christ Jesus.

This family devotion is to be led by the head of household, leading the family through the waters of the red sea, through the waters of our baptism, and into the life Messiah calls us to as we await the resurrection of the body!

L: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Family: Amen.

SH'MA (Dt. 6:4-9, 11:13-21; Nu. 15:37-41)

שמע ישראל, יהוה אלהינו, יהוה אחד. ברוך שם כבוד מלכותו לעולם ועד.

All: Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai eloheinu, Adonai echad. Baruch shem k'vod mal'chuto, l'olam vaed.

(Translating the Hebrew, we announce:)

All: Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is One.

Blessèd be His name, whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.

+ WORD +

SERVICE OF READINGS

L: In this most holy night our Savior, Christ, the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. We praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Creation: Genesis 1:1--2:2

(Silence for reflection on the Word)

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who came to share our humanity, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Family: Amen.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10--15:1

(Silence for reflection on the Word)

L: Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them in safety through the Red Sea, thereby giving us a picture of our Baptism. Grant that we may ever be faithful to Your baptismal promise, live in its grace, and show forth to all people Your desire that all should be made the children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Family: Amen.

Salvation Offered Freely to All: Isaiah 55:1-11

(Silence for reflection on the Word)

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the power of Your Word all things were created and are sustained; You send forth Your Spirit to renew Your creation. Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Family: Amen.

BAPTISMAL READING: Romans 6:3-11

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE:

L: In Holy Baptism our sins are forgiven and we are granted a new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I ask you, as a reaffirmation of what God has done for you in your baptism, do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Family: I do renounce them.

L: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Family: Yes, I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

Family: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Family: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

L: Is it your earnest purpose to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of your Baptism, and as a member of the Church, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

Family: Yes, with the help of God.

L: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven us all our sins, strengthen us with His grace to life everlasting.

Family: Amen.

