**Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter**

**Reading 1, *Genesis 1:1-2:2***

1 In the beginning [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) created [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and earth. 2 Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, with a divine wind sweeping over the waters. 3 God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 4 God saw that light was good, and [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) divided light from darkness. 5 God called light 'day', and darkness he called 'night'. Evening came and morning came: the first day. 6 God said, 'Let there be a vault through the middle of the waters to divide the waters in two.' And so it was. 7 God made the vault, and it divided the waters under the vault from the waters above the vault. 8 God called the vault 'heaven'. Evening came and morning came: the second day. 9 God said, 'Let the waters under [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.' And so it was. 10 God called the dry land 'earth' and the [mass](https://www.catholic.org/prayers/mass.php) of waters 'seas', and [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) saw that it was good. 11 God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees on earth, bearing fruit with their seed inside, each corresponding to its own species.' And so it was. 12 The earth produced vegetation: the various kinds of seed-bearing plants and the fruit trees with seed inside, each corresponding to its own species. [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) saw that it was good. 13 Evening came and morning came: the third day. 14 God said, 'Let there be [lights](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7103) in the vault of [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years. 15 Let them be [lights](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7103) in the vault of [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) to shine on the earth.' And so it was. 16 God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) to shine on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night and to divide light from darkness. [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) saw that it was good. 19 Evening came and morning came: the fourth day. 20 God said, 'Let the waters be alive with a swarm of living creatures, and let birds wing their way above the earth across the vault of heaven.' And so it was. 21 God created great sea-monsters and all the creatures that glide and teem in the waters in their own species, and winged birds in their own species. [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply on land.' 23 Evening came and morning came: the fifth day. 24 God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature in its own species: cattle, creeping things and wild animals of all kinds.' And so it was. 25 God made wild animals in their own species, and cattle in theirs, and every creature that crawls along the earth in its own species. [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) saw that it was good. 26 God said, 'Let us make [man](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7463) in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild animals and all the creatures that creep along the ground.' 27 God created [man](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7463) in the image of himself, in the image of [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) he created him, male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and all the living creatures that move on earth.' 29 God also said, 'Look, to you I give all the seed-bearing plants everywhere on the surface of the earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be your food. 30 And to all the wild animals, all the birds of [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and all the living creatures that creep along the ground, I give all the foliage of the plants as their food.' And so it was. 31 God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the sixth day. 1 Thus [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and earth were completed with all their array. 2 On the seventh day [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) had completed the work he had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.

**Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35***

1 Bless Yahweh, my soul, Yahweh, my God, how great you are! Clothed in majesty and splendour, 2 wearing the light as a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

5 You fixed the earth on its foundations, for ever and ever it shall not be shaken; 6 you covered it with the deep like a garment, the waters overtopping the mountains.

10 In the ravines you opened up springs, running down between the mountains,

12 on their banks the birds of the air make their nests, they sing among the leaves.

13 From your high halls you water the mountains, satisfying the earth with the fruit of your works: 14 for cattle you make the grass grow, and for people the plants they need, to bring forth food from the earth,

24 How countless are your works, Yahweh, all of them made so wisely! The earth is full of your creatures.

35 May sinners vanish from the earth, and the wicked exist no more! Bless Yahweh, my soul.

**Reading 2, *Genesis 22:1-18***

1 It happened some [time](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11571) later that [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) put [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham!' he called. 'Here I am,' he replied. 2 God said, 'Take your son, your only son, your beloved Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, where you are to offer him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I shall point out to you.' 3 Early next morning [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) saddled his donkey and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and started on his journey to the place which [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) had indicated to him. 4 On the third day [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 Then [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I are going over there; we shall worship and then come back to you.' 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, loaded it on Isaac, and carried in his own hands the fire and the knife. Then the two of them set out together. 7 Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. 'Father?' he said. 'Yes, my son,' he replied. 'Look,' he said, 'here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?' 8 Abraham replied, 'My son, [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) himself [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) provide the lamb for the burnt offering.' And the two of them went on together. 9 When they arrived at the place which [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) had indicated to him, [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son and put him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) of [Yahweh](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6291) called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham!' he said. 'Here I am,' he replied. 12 'Do not raise your hand against the boy,' the [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your own beloved son.' 13 Then looking up, [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham called this place 'Yahweh provides', and hence the saying today: 'On the mountain [Yahweh](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6291) provides.' 15 The [angel](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=774) of [Yahweh](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6291) called [Abraham](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=66) a second [time](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11571) from heaven. 16 'I swear by my own self, [Yahweh](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6291) declares, that because you have done this, because you have not refused me your own beloved son, 17 I [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) shower blessings on you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of [heaven](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5593) and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) gain possession of the gates of their enemies. 18 All nations on earth [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) bless themselves by your descendants, because you have obeyed my command.'

**Gospel, *Luke 24:1-12***

1 On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the [tomb](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11611) with the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, 3 but on entering they could not find the body of the [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) Jesus. 4 As they stood there puzzled about this, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. 5 Terrified, the women bowed their heads to the ground. But the two said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? 6 He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: 7 that the Son of [man](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=7463) was destined to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day.' 8 And they remembered his words. 9 And they returned from the [tomb](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11611) and told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 The women were [Mary](https://www.catholic.org/bookstore/?category=19) of Magdala, Joanna, and [Mary](https://www.catholic.org/bookstore/?category=19) the mother of James. And the other women with them also told the apostles, 11 but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them. 12 Peter, however, went off to the tomb, running. He bent down and looked in and saw the linen cloths but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.