

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Nine readings are assigned to the Easter Vigil: seven from the Old Testament and two from the New. If circumstances demand in individual cases, the number of prescribed readings may be reduced. Three selections from the Old Testament, however, should be read before the epistle and Gospel, although when necessary, two may be read. In any case, the reading from Exodus about the escape through the Red Sea (reading 3) should never be omitted.

FIRST READING

A LONGER FORM

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

1:1—2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss,
while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said,

“Let there be light,” and there was light.

God saw how good the light was.

God then separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”

Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said,

“Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters,
to separate one body of water from the other.”

And so it happened:
God made the dome,
and it separated the water above the dome from the water
below it.

God called the dome “the sky.”
Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said,
“Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single
basin,
so that the dry land may appear.”

And so it happened:
the water under the sky was gathered into its basin,
and the dry land appeared.

God called the dry land “the earth,”
and the basin of the water he called “the sea.”
God saw how good it was.

Then God said,
“Let the earth bring forth vegetation:
every kind of plant that bears seed
and every kind of fruit tree on earth
that bears fruit with its seed in it.”

And so it happened:
the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed
and every kind of fruit tree on earth
that bears fruit with its seed in it.

God saw how good it was.
Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said:
“Let there be lights in the dome of the sky,
to separate day from night.
Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years,
and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky,
to shed light upon the earth.”

And so it happened:

God made the two great lights,
the greater one to govern the day,
and the lesser one to govern the night;
and he made the stars.

God set them in the dome of the sky,
to shed light upon the earth,
to govern the day and the night,
and to separate the light from the darkness.

God saw how good it was.

Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said,

“Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures,
and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.”

And so it happened:

God created the great sea monsters
and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water
teems,

and all kinds of winged birds.

God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying,

“Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas;
and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said,

“Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures:
cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.”

And so it happened:

God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle,
and all kinds of creeping things of the earth.

God saw how good it was.

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,
and all the living things that move on the earth.”

God also said:

“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your
food;
and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,
I give all the green plants for food.”

And so it happened.

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very
good.

Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were
completed.

Since on the seventh day God was finished
with the work he had been doing,

he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had
undertaken.

The word of the Lord.