

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**April 4, 2026**

### **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, HOLY SATURDAY**

#### **Bump in the Night**

A quick internet search of “people’s top fears” inevitably reveals a mainstay: fear of the dark. This is especially true for children, but fear of the dark stalks many people all the way into adulthood. This fear is likely less about the darkness itself and more about what may linger beyond sight—things that go bump in the night. But what if the bumping noise is really God’s salvation unfolding in the dark?

The reading from John’s gospel for the Easter Vigil begins, “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb” (20:1). Mary’s arrival at the tomb before dawn reveals that resurrection happened under the blanket of night, in the dark. What does a rolling stone sound like as it reverberates in the darkness? It sounds like salvation!

This is not a coincidence. Several of the appointed Vigil readings point to God’s proclivity to operate in the absence of light: the darkness of the deep at creation (Genesis 1); the stormy cloud-cover during the torrential rains pounding Noah’s ark (Genesis 7–9); the Israelites’ water-crossing enabled by the divine cloud obscuring the way of Pharaoh’s army (Exodus 14); Jonah’s lights-out stay in the belly-room of a large fish (Jonah 1:1—2:1); and an enclosed fiery furnace flickering with shadows (Daniel 3). All these stories point to our God claiming darkness as a means and method of God’s very presence. The Easter Vigil—the night of nights—is the time to honor darkness as one of God’s modes of operation. Indeed, God’s divine love embodied in Christ Jesus bumped its way forth from the holy blackness of the tomb so that we may have life.

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