



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

"Behold the beautiful, dark work of God"

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message

June 12, 2020

"Lately, I've been paying closer attention to the use of language, particularly language around dark and light, black and white – and the values that are placed on those words. Light is usually associated with goodness and purity and life – dark and black, not so much. Even Scripture uses light and dark as metaphors. But I want us to consider the beautiful, dark work of God.

"Creation began in the dark. We hear that darkness covered the face of the deep. Samuel heard and answered God's call at night. Passover was a liberating dark work of God. The announcement of the birth of the Messiah came to the shepherds at night. Jesus' passion began at night; his holy supper was instituted on the night in which he was betrayed. Our salvation was accomplished in the dark. We hear that 'from noon to 3, darkness came over the land.' The Easter Vigil welcomes the risen Lord at midnight.

"From creation to resurrection, we behold the beautiful, dark work of God. Dark is not a foil for light. It's in the dark where we can experience the powerful presence of God.

"Be well, dear church."