

Holding the Silence 2026

Daily Readings from Sunday 19th April - Saturday 2nd May 2026

Collect for Sunday 19th - Saturday 25th April

Risen, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 26th April - Saturday 2nd May

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Daily Readings

Sunday 19th April

Jesus said to Peter the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he asked him a third time, and he said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you are old someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go. (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.' *John 21.17-19*

Self-knowledge comes to us only in dark times, when we are stripped of illusion and naked to truth. *Mary Craig*

Monday 20th April

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him. 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered, 'Truly I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, that the Son of Man will give you.'

We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never give up infinite hope.

Martin Luther King

Tuesday 21st April

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' *John 6.35*

In our era the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.

Dag Hammerskjöld

Wednesday 22nd April

I have come down from heaven not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life. *John 6.39,40*

You don't have a soul, doctor. You are a soul. You have a body, temporarily.

Walter M. Miller Jr

Thursday 23rd April

One thing have I asked of the Lord, and that alone I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will hide me in his shelter; in the secret place of his dwelling he shall hide me, and set me high upon a rock. *Psalms 27.4-6*

The spiritual life does not remove us from the world but leads us deeper into it. *Henri Nouwen*

Friday 24th April

O praise the Lord, all you nations; praise him all you peoples. For great is his steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Alleluia. *Psalms 117*

O God, help me to believe the truth about myself, no matter how beautiful it is.

Macrina Wiederkehr

Saturday 25th April

Because many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him, Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' *John 6.66-69*

We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are. *The Talmud*

Sunday 26th April

Jesus told the Pharisees, 'The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. *John 10. 25-28*

Facts can exist without human intelligence, truth cannot. *Toni Morrison*

Monday 27th April

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. *John 10.7-10*

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity. *Simone Weil*

Tuesday 28th April

Do not fear O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. *Zephaniah 3.16-18*

One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised. *Chinua Achebe*

Wednesday 29th April

I do not call you servants any longer, because a servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. *John 15.15-17*

Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel. *Socrates*

Thursday 30th April

Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. *John 13.20.*

Now is the time to dance heaven's dance, Time to discern eternity's face, Moment of knowing beyond all sight, Day of God's smile and tender embrace. *Bill Wallace (after Julian of Norwich)*

Friday 1st May

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' *John 14.3-6*

Expectation has never ceased to guide the progress of our faith like a torch. *Teilard de Chardin*

Saturday 2nd May

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you do not know me? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say I do not speak on my own; the Father who dwells in me does his works.' *John 14.8-10*

Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need for one another. *Desmond Tutu*

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