

## Holding the Silence 2026

### Daily Readings from Sunday 22nd March - Saturday 4th April 2026

#### Collect for Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th March

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Collect for Sunday 29th March - Saturday 4th April

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.

### Daily Readings

#### Sunday 22nd March

It is you that took me out of my mother's womb and laid me safe upon my mother's breast. On you I was cast ever since I was born; you are my God even from my mother's womb. Be not far from me for trouble is near at hand and there is none to help. *Psalm 22.9-11*

The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible. *Arthur C. Clarke*

#### Monday 23rd March

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said this quite openly. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me Satan! For you have set your mind not on divine things but on human things.' *Mark 8.31-33*

If you do not hope you will not find what is beyond your hopes. *St Clement of Alexandria*

#### Tuesday 24th March

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken,

struck down by God and afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

*Isaiah 53.4-6*

Love is most nearly itself when the here and now cease to matter. *T.S. Eliot*

#### Wednesday 25th March

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power and wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. *1 Corinthians 1.22-25*

Our whole business in life is to restore to health the eye and the heart by which God may be seen. *St Augustine*

#### Thursday 26th March

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live in righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. *1 Peter 2.24,25*

Christianity does not ask us to live in the shadow of the cross, but in the fire of its creative action. *Teilhard de Chardin*

#### Friday 27th March

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. *Romans 5.6-8*

You ought never to believe something that you dare not think over. *Helmut Thielicke*

#### Saturday 28th March

My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning. O Israel wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; with him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. *Psalm 130.5-7*

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. *C.S. Lewis*

### **Sunday 29th March**

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation.' *Hebrews 2.10-12*

The kingdom of god is not a place but an experience. *John Main*

### **Monday 30th March**

Jesus said, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.' *Mark 8.34,35*

Prayer is meaningless unless it is subversive, unless it seeks to overthrow and to ruin the pyramids of callousness, hatred, opportunism, falsehoods. *Rabbi A.J. Heschel*

### **Tuesday 31st March**

He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Isaiah 53.4-6*

The true miracle is not walking on water or walking in air, but simply walking on this earth. *Thich Nhat Hanh*

### **Wednesday 1st April**

Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions ... he reproaches us for sins against the law. He professes to knowledge of God and calls himself a child of the Lord. The very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others and his ways are strange. *The book of Wisdom.*

Let the desire to be with God goad you as often and as intensely as it may. *Anon*

### **Thursday 2nd April**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. *1 Peter 2.34,25*

Divinity is aimed at humanity. *Hildegard of Bingen*

### **Friday 3rd April**

You know my reproach, my shame and dishonour; my adversaries are all in your sight. Reproach has broken my heart; I am full of heaviness. I looked for some to have pity, but there was no one, neither found I any to comfort me. They gave me gall to eat, and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink. *Psalms 69.21-23*

Some people ask nowadays what kind of religion it is that chooses an instrument of torture for its symbol, as if the cross on churches must represent some kind of endorsement. The answer is one that takes the existence of suffering seriously. *Francis Spufford*

### **Saturday 4th April**

Jesus answered Andrew and Philip, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it in eternal life. whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. *John 12.23-26*

Never once did Jesus scan the room for the best example of holy living and send that person out to tell others about him. He always sent stumblers and sinners. I find that comforting. *Nadia Bolz-Weber*

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