



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Daily Devotion at Zion + April 2026 + Love's Extent

Love's Extent

Stop thinking, for a moment, about the extent of your love.

Certainly, don't think about the extent of other people's love, with which your heart tends towards disappointment.

Turn away from all that hoping and dreaming, posturing and judging, discontent and wishing, dear souls, and consider the extent of Christ's love.

Our hearts hesitate to believe it hurt Him, but He came to know something we have never known: utter alienation from God.

He felt in His soul and heart, His flesh and His bones, the terrifying and utter absence of the Father, the total eclipse of Life and the arrival of pure rejection. Can you imagine—you cannot!—what that feels like even for a second, much less a day, two days, three?

He suffered it to redeem those who hated His guts. They couldn't give Him anything in return, and they still can't (we can't).

We can thank Him—that's good—and He not only graciously accepts but also authors our thanksgiving, like a mother giving her son pennies to put in the offering plate, just so the child feels like a part of things. But it doesn't really *pay* Him for anything.

Even thanksgiving is for you, like His body and blood are for you, and His life at the Father's right hand is for you, and His prayers are for you, and His cross was for you, and the tomb and the rising and the appearing—all for you, the extent of love, our devotion.

About the Cover Art

This details of the "Descent from The Cross" by Annibale [Hannibal] Carracci (17th century) invites our reflection on the sufferings of Christ by focusing on a single mark of that suffering: one nail mark in His hands. The sickly green hues of Christ's hand emphasize that His death is a real death, and it contrasts with the more scarlet color of the clothing others wear. That scarlet, long associated with His Passion, alert the Christian onlooker to the promise, embedded in the Church's symbology: this was all for you.

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter Day (April 5)

S Exodus 12:1-14 John 1:1-18 Luke 24:13-35	Th Exodus 13:3-10 1 Corinthians 15:41-50 Matthew 28:16-20
M Exodus 12:14-27 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8	F Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Luke 24:1-12
T Exodus 12:28-39 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 Mark 16:9-20	Sa Exodus 13:17—14:4 2 Corinthians 4:16— 5:10 Mark 12:18-27
W Exodus 12:40-51 1 Corinthians 15:29-41 Matthew 28:1-16	

These readings correspond to pages 1041—1073 in Volume III of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of the Easter 2 (April 12)

S Exodus 14:5-22 1 John 1:1-7 John 14:1-7	Th Exodus 16:10-21 1 Peter 2:11—3:12 John 15:12-27
M Exodus 14:21-31 1 Peter 1:1-12 John 14:1-17	F Exodus 16:22-36 1 Peter 3:13—4:6 John 16:1-15
T Exodus 15:1-21 1 Peter 1:13-25 John 14:18-31	Sa Exodus 17:1-16 1 Peter 4:7-19 John 16:16-33

W Exodus 15:22—16:10
1 Peter 2:1-10
John 15:1-11

These readings correspond to pages 1073—1110 in Volume III of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 3 (April 19)

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| S Exodus 18:1-12
1 John 2:7-17
John 20:11-18 | Th Exodus 20:1-21
Colossians 1:24—2:7
Matthew 4:1-11 |
| M Exodus 18:13-27
1 Peter 5:1-14
Matthew 1:1-17; 3:1-6 | F Exodus 24:1-18
Colossians 2:8-23
Matthew 4:12-17 |
| T Exodus 19:1-16
Colossians 1:1-14
Matthew 3:7-12 | Sa Exodus 25:1-22
Colossians 3:1-17
Matthew 4:18-25 |
| W Exodus 19:16-25
Colossians 1:15-23
Matthew 3:13-17 | <i>These readings correspond to pages 1111—1144 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i> |

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 4 (April 26)

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| S Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38
1 John 2:18-29
Mark 6:30-44 | Th Exodus 34:1-17
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Matthew 5:21-26 |
| M Exodus 32:1-20
Colossians 3:18—4:18
Matthew 5:1-10 | F Exodus 34:18-35
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Matthew 5:27-37 |
| T Exodus 32:21-34
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 5:11-16 | Sa Exodus 40:18-38
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Matthew 5:38-48 |
| W Exodus 33:1-23
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:17-20 | <i>The readings correspond to pages 1144—1176 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i> |