

FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR. 25-26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gospel Reading

Jn 10:1-10

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.

But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.

But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.”

Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep.

All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

Intercession

May those who are struggling to find their way, discover it through the programs and ministries the **Annual Appeal** supports, recognizing the truth of your Word and believing that you are the gate, the only way to eternal life.

Copy for Bulletin Announcement

Being nurtured and cared for is a wonderful feeling. As children, our parents and grandparents provide the love and safety of a warm family life. When we go to school, our teachers join them in encouraging our curiosity. And at all stages of life, we find support in our friendships. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the ultimate caretaker. His love for us is personal, even protective. Just as a dutiful shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, Jesus knows each of us and he calls us by name. In him, we are safe. In him, we find rest. And in him we “have life and have it more abundantly.”

As a Church, we are invited to reflect that same shepherding love in the world—to be the voice that calls others to hope, healing, and faith. In that spirit, please consider supporting this year’s **Annual Appeal**. Your gift helps extend Christ’s care to many in need.

Copy for Pulpit Announcement

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we have two very powerful images of Jesus. He is the Good Shepherd, and he is the Gate. He says, “I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.” This image of Jesus as the Gate reminds us that Christ is not only our Shepherd but also the very door through which we enter into safety, peace, and the fullness of life.

A gate provides both protection and passage. Through Christ, we are welcomed into the heart of God. We are nourished by his grace and then sent out with purpose. This gift is not ours exclusively, however. As his Church, we are called to hold that gate open for others—to extend Our Lord’s welcome, his mercy, and his care to all who seek it.

One way we do this is through our support of the **Annual Appeal**. Please take to prayer your ability to give to the **Appeal**. Every gift helps open the gate a little wider.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Bushel overflowing with wheat

Header: “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” – John 10: 10

Copy: Thank God for his many blessings! We can share the abundance of God’s gifts with others through support of the **Annual Appeal**.