

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

Mount of Olives | February 8, 2026 | John 10:1-11

Pastor Jim Reynen

Prayer of the Day

Dear Lord Jesus, we know through our intellect and through our faith that You are seeking us out, that You are calling us; but too often the noise of worldly chaos and personal anxiety hinder our spiritual awareness. Please help us to be sensitive to Your calling, for only through You can we make our way. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 10:1-11

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again 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 and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Message Notes

John 10:3

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

John 10:7-10

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Study Questions

Read John 10:1-11

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What's the most memorable interaction you've ever had with an animal?
2. Have you ever gotten lost somewhere unfamiliar? What helped you find your way back?

Based on John 10:1-11, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read John 10:1-11, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What contrasts does Jesus draw between the shepherd and the thief or robber? How does Jesus describe the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep?
2. What does it mean that the sheep "recognize his voice"?
3. Why do the sheep refuse to follow a stranger?
4. What is significant about Jesus calling Himself "the gate" for the sheep?
5. How does the imagery of entering "through the gate" deepen our understanding of salvation?
6. What does Jesus mean when He says He came so people "may have life, and have it abundantly"?
7. How does Jesus distinguish Himself from hired hands?
8. What does the title "Good Shepherd" communicate about Jesus' character?
9. How does the Good Shepherd demonstrate His care for the sheep?
10. What dangers or threats are implied in the passage, and how does the shepherd respond to them?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. In what areas of your life do you most need to hear and recognize Jesus' voice?
2. What "stranger voices" tend to pull your attention away from God's guidance?
3. How can you cultivate a deeper trust in Jesus as your shepherd this week?
4. What would it look like for you to experience "abundant life" in a practical, everyday sense?
5. How might you reflect the qualities of the Good Shepherd in your relationships with others?