



瀬田の丘



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Today's reading
Easter 4th Sunday, Year A (April 26, 2026)

Pastor: Father Hiroshi Konishi

First reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Second reading: 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Gospel reading: John 10:1-10

[I am...]

The Easter season is now in its second half. In this week's and next week's Gospel readings, Jesus will say, "I am..." There are many places in the Gospel of John where Jesus speaks about himself using the phrases "I am..." or "ἐγώ εἰμι / egō eimi" Let's take a look.

I am the bread of life (Chapter 6, Verse 48).

I am the light of the world (Chapter 8, Verse 12).

I am the gate (Chapter 10, Verse 9).

I am the good shepherd (chapter 10, verse 9).

I am the resurrection and the life (Chapter 11, Verse 25).

I am the way, the truth, and the life (Chapter 14, Verse 6)

Besides this, there is also "I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer" (Chapter 15, Verse 1). Furthermore, Jesus says "I am" in Chapters 8, Verses 24, 28, and 58, and Chapter 13, Verse 19. In addition, Jesus answers "I am" in conversations with the soldiers and chief priests that Judas brought with him (Chapter 18, Verses 5, 6, and 8).

The phrase "I am..." or "ἐγώ εἰμι / egō eimi is unique to Jesus. And it is the same word God uses to reveal himself in the Book of Exodus (Exodus 3:13-14, Franciscan translation). Let's read that passage.

13 Moses said to God, "What shall I say to the Israelites when I go and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his

name?’ ” 14 God said to Moses, “ I AM WHO I AM. ” And he also said, “Tell the Israelites, ‘I AM WHO I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

“I am what I am” is God’s way of introducing himself. Jesus also used this expression when revealing himself. It is an expression that shows that Jesus was the Son of God, sent by God. And then he says, “I am...” to speak about himself more clearly. In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus introduces himself as the gate.

If we divide today’s Gospel reading into paragraphs, it would look like this:

1. The parable of the sheep gate (sections 1-3a)
2. The Parable of the Shepherd (verses 3b-5)
3. “I am the gate for the sheep” (verses 7-10)
4. “I am the good shepherd” (verses 11-18)

Between the second and third paragraphs, it says, “Jesus told this parable to the Pharisees, but they did not understand what it was about” (verse 6). So, even though he told two parables at the beginning, the Pharisees still did not understand who Jesus was. That’s why he boldly revealed himself by saying, “I am...”

Today’s Gospel reading is set against the backdrop of sheep farming in Palestine. In the morning, shepherds lead the sheep entrusted to them by their masters out of the pen, guide them to the green pastures where they can eat and exercise. They also lead the sheep to streams of water to quench their thirst. And in the evening, they always bring them back to their masters’ pens. Thus, a shepherd who has been properly entrusted by their master enters the pen gate with dignity, calls each of their sheep by name, leads them out, and walks at the front. The sheep, knowing his voice, follow him. However, it is said that a shepherd who has not been entrusted by their master does not enter through the gate, but climbs over somewhere else.