

**I AM the Gate. I AM the Good Shepherd.
Lenten Morning Prayer – March 4, 2026
Second Wednesday of Lent**

Welcome + Invocation

St. Luke's Preschool Singers

Opening Prayer

L: O God of Peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

"I Am" Statements (Written By Jason Elder)

L: Jesus said, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved."

C: We come to the threshold of grace.

L: The door is open, and Christ welcomes all.

C: In him, we find belonging and new life.

L: Let us enter with thanksgiving.

C: Jesus, our Gate, we step into worship.

L: Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. I lay down my life for the sheep."

C: He knows us by name and calls us his own.

L: When we wander, He finds us. When we fall, he carries us.

C: In every valley and on every hill—he is with us.

L: Let us worship our Shepherd with trust and joy.

C: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we are yours.

First Reading: Philippians 4:4-9 (*Beth Angerhofer*)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: The Word of the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-18

"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. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves

the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers

L: We pray that you will hear us, O Lord; and will grant your grace to all.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will be with the leaders of the nations, that their decisions will sustain the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will sustain those who face long or terminal illness, bearing them up as on eagle’s wings.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will abide with all who are lonely or despondent, having no one to comfort them.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will restore all who are in mental darkness to soundness of mind and cheerfulness of heart.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will grant us life eternal so we may live in your hope that doesn’t disappoint.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will give your wisdom in ample measure to doctors, nurses, and medical workers of all kind, so that with knowledge, skill, patience, they may minister to the sick.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will give us grateful hearts for your healing power already at work all around us.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

Lord’s Prayer

L: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

L: Jesus Lamb of God, bearer of our sins, redeemer of the world.

C: Have mercy on us and give us your peace. Amen.

Benediction

L: May the Lord fill us with the light and truth and love of the Spirit, overflowing that we share it with others in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.