

Gospel: Listen for words of faith in the Gospel of John 10:1-10

“The truth of the matter is,
whoever doesn't enter the sheepfold through the gate
but climbs in some other way
is a thief and a robber.

The one who enters through the gate
is the shepherd of the sheep,
the one for whom the keeper opens the gate.

The sheep know the shepherd's voice;
the shepherd calls them by name
and leads them out.

Having led them all out of the fold,
the shepherd walks in front of them
and they follow because
they recognise the shepherd's voice.

They simply won't follow strangers—
they'll flee from them
because they don't recognize
the voice of strangers.”

Even though Jesus used this metaphor with them,
they didn't grasp what he was trying to tell them.
He therefore said to them again:

“The truth of the matter is,
I am the sheep gate.
All who came before me
were thieves and marauders
whom the sheep didn't heed.

I am the gate.

Whoever enters through me will be safe -
you'll go in and out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal
and slaughter and destroy.
I came that you might have life
and have it to the full.

Pause

For the good news of Divine Love
Thanks be to God.

Early Church: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:
Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves
to the apostles' instructions
and the communal life,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

A reverent fear overtook them all,
for many wonders and signs
were being performed by the apostles.

Those who believed lived together,
shared all things in common;
they would sell their property and goods,
sharing the proceeds with one another
as each had need.

They met in the Temple
and they broke bread together
in their homes every day.

With joyful and sincere hearts
they took their meals in common,
praising God and winning the approval
of all the people. Day by day,
God added to their number
those who were being saved.

Pause

For insights from the radical community of the early church
We give thanks.

Contemporary Reading: *And the table will be wide*
by Jan Richardson

And the table
will be wide.

And the welcome
will be wide.

And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.

And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
There is enough.

And we will come
unhindered and free.

And our aching
will be met
with bread.

And our sorrow

will be met
with wine.

And we will open our hands
to the feast.
without shame.

And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.

And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.

And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.

And we will become drink
for those who thirst.

And the blessed
will become the blessing.

And everywhere
will be the feast.

Pause

For the gift of an open table and generous hospitality.

We give thanks.