



Scripture scholars point out that there are seven 'I am' passages in John's Gospel, two of them in Jn 10:1-10, 'I am the gate' and 'I am the Good Shepherd.' Many Jews who heard Jesus making those statements would have recalled that in Exodus 3:14 God revealed his name to Moses as 'I am who am.' And so, the two 'I am' statements in John's Gospel can be understood as names for God.

The reference to Jesus being the gate is significant. It is only through a personal relationship with him that a person can come into a loving relationship with God the Father. When he was elected as Pope, Benedict XVI said that one of the greatest challenges faced by contemporary Christians was 'the dictatorship of relativism,' which holds that there is nothing unique about Jesus and that he is merely one outstanding religious leader among many others. Any claim that Christ is divine, the unique and the sole means of salvation (cf. 1 Tim 2:5) is considered by many liberal Christians to be arrogant, intolerant and unjustified. They consider all religions as equally valid paths to transcendence. Speaking about this mistaken and corrosive attitude to Jesus, Pope Benedict said, 'This renunciation of truth seems

the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**After the Consecration**  
The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

### THE COMMUNION RITE

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter**

## JESUS, THE SOLE MEDIATOR

realistic and useful for peace among religions in the world. It is nevertheless lethal to faith.'

Universalism is another challenge that the Church has to face. Many of our contemporaries, including some Catholics, believe that the road that leads to heaven is wide and that most people take it, with the possible exception of some extraordinarily evil people like serial killers. Jesus said the opposite when he advised, 'Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it' (Mt 7:13-14).

**under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son.

**Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

John 10:1-11, concludes with the words, 'I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.' In a culture of death that believes in contraception, abortion, euthanasia and war, Jesus says that he has come to give us life. What he has in mind is spiritual life. He gives it to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit, which he yielded up at the moment of his death. It is the first instalment of the eternal life to come, which will involve the resurrection of our mortal bodies. ■

— Pat Collins



### Reflection

*What wisdom have you learned from the good shepherds in your life?*



### Lesson

*Jesus said, 'I have come that [you] may have life and have it to the full.'*



### Prayer

*The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.*