

Message from Fr. David

THE 7 "I AM" SAYINGS OF JESUS FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

There are seven "I AM" sayings from John's Gospel. As we read these sayings, and as we learn about these famous words and stories, we will better understand why a personal encounter with Jesus is what our Gospel readings have been about through our Lenten journey. These are life-changing messages for those who encountered Jesus. Can they change our lives?....

1. **Jesus says, "I am the bread of life" (6:35).** Spiritually hungry? Jesus is the bread of life. "Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).
2. **Jesus says, "I am the light of the world" (8:12).** Spiritually blind, groping around in the dark looking for meaning and enlightenment? Jesus is the light of the world. "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).
3. **Jesus says, "I am the door" (10:9).** Seeking the door to salvation and to heaven? Jesus is the door. "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and pasture" (John 10:9).
4. **Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd" (10:11).** Wandering? Lost? Jesus is the Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).
5. **Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life".** Spiritually dead and dying? Fearing death? Jesus is the resurrection and the life. "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26).
6. **Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (14:6).** Wondering what is the way? Unsure of the truth? Searching for the meaning of life? Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).
7. **Jesus says, "I am the true vine" (15:1).** Wanting to live a life of meaning and fruitfulness? Jesus is the true vine. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser." "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me

and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15: 1, 5).

Prayers ascend in the midst of violence and tragedy

Once again we are faced with violence to those who are trained and called to serve our community. Our prayers ascend for Officer Tom Wagstaff, Independence PD, shot in the line of duty, and his family as they struggle through the hours and days to come. Our prayers also ascend for the parishioners of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Raytown, MO as they care for this family and those in their immediate community. We may ask God why horrible things happen to good people, and we must realize that God always suffers with us in all our tragedies. Violence is not God's doing, it's the action of people, people who make terrible choices. As we may also want to pray for justice, we also pray for peace and healing.

Having personally responded to calls where one of our own has suffered, my thoughts and prayers go also to the emergency responders who take the risks to protect and care for all of us. Please keep the Independence Police department personnel and staff, and all law enforcement, fire and EMS responders in your prayers for all they do in their daily work.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*