

Sunday, July 13th 2025

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602**

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(on the SDA campus)
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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!”
(Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

Our presence at the Lord’s Supper is to be a sign of our unity in Christ. Lutherans believe Scripture clearly teaches this sacrament is for those who trust that Jesus Christ is their Savior, are repentant for their sins, desire to lead a God pleasing life, and confess that, in, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus Christ is truly physically present for the forgiveness of sins. And since 1 Corinthians warns that we can take the Sacrament to our condemnation if ill-prepared, we kindly ask any guests desiring to commune with us to speak with our pastor or one of our Elders before the service.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Mark McClain
Lay Reader – Jeremy Clifton
Assisting Elder – Dave Sager
Usher – Rosie Cabrera
Acolyte – E.J. Clontz

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Jesus Is Our Good Samaritan

The Law commands that “*you shall love the Lord your God*” with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Luke 10:27), and that you shall “*love your neighbor as yourself*” (Lev. 19:18). Love fulfills the Law because love does no harm to the neighbor. Christ Jesus is the Good Samaritan, who with divine compassion saves you from all evil. He takes your sin and death upon Himself and bears these in His body to the cross. He binds up your wounds with the healing balm of His Gospel, and He brings you into His Church, where He takes care of you at His own expense (Luke 10:34–35). By such mercy, He proves “*to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers*” (Luke 10:36). Therefore, “*you go, and do likewise*” (Luke 10:37). By “*your faith in Christ Jesus*” and “*because of the hope laid up for you in heaven*” (Col. 1:4–5), you have the same love for others as the Lord Jesus has for you.

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR**

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“With the Lord Begin Your Task”

LSB 869

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 136:23-26

P It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

C and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

P he who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

C Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “**What is written in the Law? How do you read it?**” ²⁷And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “**You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.**”

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “**A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “**You go, and do likewise.**”**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(sit)

Hymn of the Day *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

LSB 845

Sermon *The one about a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan...* Luke 10:25-37

(stand)

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

(stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1*
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has 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.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



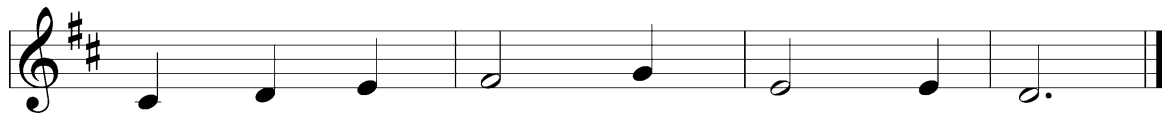
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymn

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

LSB 683

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion”

LSB 559

P Go in Peace!

C Serve the Lord!

Postlude

Selected Music

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.

CATECHISM CORNER | *Bite-sized teachings from Martin Luther's Small Catechism*

Written in 1529 in question-and-answer format, Luther's Small Catechism explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray or slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

SERMON NOTES: Luke 10:25-37

The one about a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan...

1. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a _____-shaped _____ that shows us for the _____ we really are.
2. We often carry the noblest of intentions in our _____, but when it comes to loving _____ we just don't _____ it all we've got.
3. Before sending us to have _____ on others, _____ has _____ on us.
4. At the _____ of all _____ is a _____.
5. God really has few reasons to _____ us. But He has one GREAT reason to _____ us: _____.
6. Because Jesus died and rose again there's _____ for even the most stubborn of sinners, called not to _____ our neighbors as ourselves, but to _____ them.

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Tyler and Yanela McMiller and their daughters, Lia and Alessia – missionaries in Italy

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless– it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Offering: Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



Make Every Day Count devotional gathering at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop meets twice a month at 3pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

Adult Sunday School: Join us at 10am for Drive Thru History as we explore the lives of the very first Christians in ***Acts to Revelation***.

We have an offer in on 5+ acres in Bastrop, south of TX 71 (just west of FM 20): 124 Three Oaks Ln. There will be a brief congregational meeting about this TODAY after our worship service.

Thursday 6pm Zoom Video Study: Join us for ***Weird Stuff: Old Testament***, a six-session series hosted by Dr. Jeff Voth and Hebrew scholar, Dr. Nathan French. Register: bit.ly/ELC-WeirdOT1

Looking for a unique volunteer/fellowship opportunity? Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry Production Center 163 is located at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. They currently have 8 teams of 7-8 members that meet at various days and times, once a month for 1-2 hours (there are teams that meet in the mornings usually at 9-11am or 9:30-11:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays, and two evening groups that meet at 5-7pm or 6-8pm). They're always in need of workers and no Braille skills are needed. If you're interested in volunteering, call Shirley Alexander at (979) 540-6800 or speak with Rosie.

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—***RightNow Media*** has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



Lutheran Radio: Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kfu.org), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/kfu.org), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfu.org).

The First Annual Epiphany Lutheran Church Spend the Year in Scripture Challenge reading schedule through next Sunday:

- Day 195 - Mon 7/14: Proverbs 4-6
- Day 196 - Tue 7/15: Proverbs 7-9
- Day 197 - Wed 7/16: Proverbs 10-12
- Day 198 - Thu 7/17: Proverbs 13-15
- Day 199 - Fri 7/18: Proverbs 16-18
- Day 200 - Sat 7/19: Proverbs 19-21
- Day 201 - Sun 7/20: Proverbs 22-23



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, July 13th

- 10:00am – Children’s Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion
- Immediately Following Service – Voters Meeting

Tuesday, July 15th

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court

Thursday, July 17th

- 6:00pm – Zoom Video Study – *Weird Stuff: Old Testament*

Sunday, July 20th

- 10:00am – Children’s Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a **God-shaped mirror** that shows us for the **sinners** we really are.
2. We often carry the noblest of intentions in our **hearts**, but when it comes to loving **God** we just don't **give** it all we've got.
3. Before sending us to have **compassion** on others, **Jesus** has **compassion** on us.
4. At the **heart** of all **sin** is a **lie**.
5. God really has few reasons to **like** us. But He has one GREAT reason to **love** us: **Jesus**.
6. Because Jesus died and rose again there's **hope** for even the most stubborn of sinners, called not to **like** our neighbors as ourselves, but to **love** them.

3-minute



Seminary

God's Name

The name *Yahweh* occurs more than 6,800 times in the Old Testament. It appears in every book but Esther, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs. As the sacred, personal name of Israel's God, it was eventually spoken aloud only by priests worshipping in the Jerusalem temple. After the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, the name was not pronounced at all. *Adonai* was substituted for *Yahweh* whenever it appeared in the biblical text. Because of this, the correct pronunciation of this name was eventually lost. English editions of the Bible usually translate *Adonai* as "Lord" and *Yahweh* as "LORD." *Yahweh* is the name that is most closely linked to God's redeeming acts in the history of his chosen people. We know God because of what he has done. He is the same God who draws near to save you from the tyranny of sin just as he saved his people from tyrannical slavery in Egypt.

Afraid of profaning this covenant name of God, various rabbinical writers spoke of it as "The Name," "The Great and Terrible Name," "The Unutterable Name," "The Ineffable Name," "The Holy Name," and "The Distinguished Name." Also known as the Tetragrammaton, because it is formed by the four Hebrew consonants YHWH (JHVH in German), it was first rendered *Jehovah* in the Middle Ages and enshrined as such in the King James Version of the Bible (Exodus 6:3; Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 12:2; 26:4). This mispronunciation arose when in 10th-century Jewish scholars began supplying vowels to Hebrew words, which had formerly been written without them. Since *Adonai* was always substituted for *Yahweh* (pronounced yah-WEH, as scholars now think) in the biblical text, the Hebrew vowels for *Adonai* were inserted into the four letters of the Tetragrammaton: YaHoWaH.

Unfortunately, the translation "LORD," which is a title rather than a name, obscures the personal nature of this name for God. Though the meaning of *Yahweh* is still debated, the mysterious self-description in Exodus 3:14, "I am WHO I am," may convey the sense not only that God is self-existent but that he is always present with his people*. *Yahweh* is not a God who is remote or aloof but one who is always near, intervening in history on behalf of his people. The knowledge of God's proper name implies a covenant relationship. God's covenant name is closely associated with his saving acts in Exodus. The name *Yahweh* evokes images of God's saving power in the lives of his people.

*Most scholars agree that *Yahweh* is related to the Hebrew verb *hayah*, meaning "to be." Specifically, the name is often linked to God's statement in Exodus 3:14: "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh" ("I AM THAT I AM.") Here, *Ehyeh* is the first-person singular imperfect form of *hayah*, literally "I will be" or "I am." So *Yahweh* is often understood as a third-person singular imperfect, meaning "He is" or "He causes to be" (i.e., the One who brings things into existence), reflecting God's self-existence and eternal being.