

Sunday, June 21st 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Connect. Grow. Multiply.

Mailing Address:

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489 Agnes
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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:

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation by baptized believers in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

If you are not a member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive Communion, we kindly request that you first speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E.B. Holschuh
Lay Reader – Rosie Cabrera
Assisting Elder – Clayton Wolf
Usher – Jeremy Clifton

We are using the Church Music Solutions Church Organist Service, an iPad application that provides us with accompaniment for our worship service. **There is a brief introduction to the musical parts of the liturgy unless otherwise noted.**

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Delivered from Sin and Death, You Now Live before God in the Righteousness of Christ

The outcome of sin is death, “*but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Rom. 6:23). He has set you free from the slavery of sin and has brought you “*from death to life*” (Rom. 6:13). No longer are you under the condemnation of the Law, but you live “*under grace*” (Rom. 6:14). Such is your courage in the face of “*those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul*” (Matt. 10:28). For though “*you will be hated by all*” and maligned by the world for the name of Christ (Matt. 10:22, 25), you abide in the care of your Father in heaven, who numbers “*even the hairs of your head*” and values you more “*than many sparrows*” (Matt. 10:30–31). By the Word of Christ, you have become like Him, your Teacher and Master in whom you endure to the end, and “*will be saved*” (Matt. 10:22, 25). For He is with you “*as a dread warrior,*” who has overcome your enemies (Jer. 20:11). By the righteousness of faith, He delivers your heart, mind, body and life “*from the hand of evildoers,*” and He brings you into the land of the living (Jer. 20:12–13).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude		Selected Music
Welcome and Greeting		Pastor
Announcements		
Opening Hymn	“ <i>How Firm a Foundation</i> ”	LSB 728
<i>(stand)</i>		

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 56:3-4, 10-11

P When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.

C In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?

P In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,

C in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me?

*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



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

Gloria in Excelsis (no intro)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



☐ 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 - shipped 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.

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷O LORD, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all the day;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering.
Terror is on every side!
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
say all my close friends,
watching for my fall.

"Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we can overcome him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble;
they will not overcome me.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
¹²O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,
who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:12-23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads

to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Holy Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .

²¹Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be

saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Lord of Our Life”

LSB 659

Sermon

“Fear NOT, therefore...”

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

(stand)

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. 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. 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 (no intro)

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:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**☩ 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 covenant 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.
☩ Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



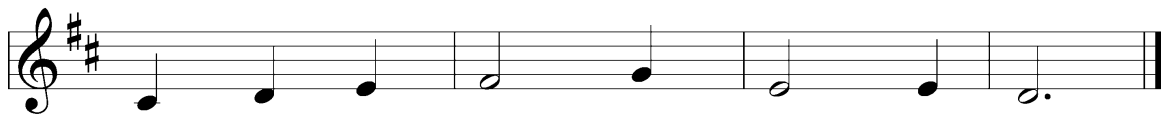
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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

“Entrust Your Days and Burdens”

LSB #754

(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

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

LSB 710

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 Luther's Small Catechism*

Written in 1529 in Q&A format, the 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.

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

17. *What was it that moved Him to die and make satisfaction for your sins?*

His great love to His Father and to me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; Ephesians 2.

18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?*

That I may learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn of Him to love God and my neighbor.

SERMON NOTES: Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

“Fear NOT, therefore...”

1. _____ leads to _____—one of the biggest problems facing the Christian _____ today.

2. An “abbreviated Christian” still _____, but _____ shortens the horizon of _____—the result is a Christian who asks not, "Lord, how can I serve You?" but "Lord, how can I stay safe?"

3. Jesus knows what the _____ is like, and how _____ too often inhibits the _____ with the best intentions at heart.

4. Jesus knows that only the _____ of _____ can drive out the _____ of men.

5. The noonday _____ kindles our worldly _____, induces a lack of _____ to rely on God, and interferes with our spiritual motivation.

6. While we certainly ought to fear God’s _____, Proverbs 9:10 says “The _____ of the LORD is the beginning of _____.”



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).



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 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.



9am Adult Sunday School: Join us as we continue the video study, *Drive Thru History: Ends of the Earth*. We're following host Dave Stotts as he travels the globe to tell the 2,000-year story of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ reached the Ends of the Earth.

Our new **Wednesday Bring-A-Friend Video Study** started this past week here at Three Oaks! Join us at 7pm for ***Starting Point: A Conversation About Faith*** (thru 8/5), a conversational, video-based study designed for seekers, starters, returners, and anyone curious about Christianity. No question is off-limits, and no prior Bible knowledge is required. There are 7 sessions left— come as you are (even better, bring a friend)...

Join us on **Monday, June 29, at 6pm** for another **one-hour, one-time FLASH STUDY** on Zoom: ***Don't Ask AI to Save Your Soul***— we'll watch a short video and look at what AI can do well, where it falls short, and why God's inspired Word remains the Christian's ultimate source of truth, wisdom, and salvation. (There'll be plenty of room—pass it on.!) Register: bit.ly/ELC-BibleAI

Today marks the start of a **90-day challenge to add \$10,000 to our building fund!** This came about because we were approached by a potential donor (not a member) who offered to match this amount if we can do it. *Can we?!* We'll announce whether we reached our goal or not on Sunday, 9/13. If you'd like to contribute, please note Building Fund on your check or envelope.

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/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUOradio).

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.



ChristianBook Giveback Program: Did you know that your purchases at Christianbook can help fund our congregation? Just visit christianbook.com/apps/giveback and enter the Giveback ID for Epiphany Lutheran Church: JQWHTN. After this one-time signup, we'll be eligible to receive 4% cashback on your purchases.

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. *Fear* leads to *apathy*—one of the biggest problems facing the *Christian* Church today.
2. An "abbreviated Christian" still *believes*, but *fear* shortens the horizon of *faith*—the result is a Christian who asks not, "Lord, how can I serve You?" but "Lord, how can I stay safe?"
3. Jesus knows what the *world* is like, and how *sin* too often inhibits the *believer* with the best intentions at heart.
4. Jesus knows that only the *fear of God* can drive out the *fear of men*.
5. The noonday *daemon* kindles our worldly *fears*, induces a lack of *desire* to rely on God, and interferes with our spiritual motivation.
6. While we certainly ought to fear God's *wrath*, Proverbs 9:10 says "The *fear of the LORD* is the beginning of *wisdom*."

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, June 21st

- 9:00am – Children’s Sunday School
- 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Wednesday, June 24th

- 7:00pm – Starting Point: *A Conversation About Faith*

Sunday, June 28th

- 9:00am – Children’s Sunday School
- 9:00am – Adult Sunday School
- 10:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 10:30am – Worship Service with Communion

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. Micah and Robin Wildauer and their children, Samuel, Elizabeth, David, and Lydia – missionaries in Belize
- Fey Betak, Francis Eschberger, Jim Haynes, Anita Hickman, Ranita Murphy, Elaine Ottinger, Sally Potthast, Gert Schriener, and all the residents at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop
- Rev. Timothy Dinger
- Molly and Watkin
- Dave and Deb Layland



The Book of the Twelve: Twelve Voices, One Message

Most Christians know the *Minor Prophets* as twelve short books tucked near the end of the Old Testament. We can usually name a few—Hosea and his unfaithful wife, Jonah and the great fish, Malachi and his promise of Elijah’s return. But ancient Israel knew these writings differently. They were not twelve separate books at all.

They were collected and read together as the Book of the Twelve—one scroll, one testimony, one unfolding message from God.

The term *minor* can be misleading. These prophets are not minor in importance. They are simply shorter than Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Ezekiel. Yet together they span centuries of Israel's history: from the prosperity and spiritual complacency of the 8th century BC, through the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions, into exile, and finally to the difficult years of restoration after God's people returned to their homeland.

Read individually, each prophet has his own emphasis. Hosea proclaims God's steadfast love to an unfaithful people. Joel warns of the Day of the Lord and calls for heartfelt repentance. Amos thunders against injustice. Jonah reveals God's compassion even for Israel's enemies. Micah promises a ruler to come from Bethlehem. Haggai and Zechariah encourage the rebuilding of the Temple. Malachi points ahead to the messenger who will prepare the way for the Lord. But read together, the Twelve tell a larger story.

Again and again, God's people wander. They trust idols, pursue wealth, neglect mercy, and forget the Lord who redeemed them. Again and again, God calls them back. Judgment comes—not because God is cruel, but because He is faithful to His covenant and refuses to abandon His people to their sin. And again and again, hope emerges. The Lord promises restoration, forgiveness, and a future kingdom that no enemy can overthrow. That story is not merely ancient history. It is our story.

We 21st-century Christians are tempted by different idols, but idols nonetheless: success, comfort, politics, entertainment, and self-sufficiency. Like Israel, we are prone to wander. Like Israel, we need to hear the prophets' call: "Return to the LORD your God" (Joel 2:13). The Book of the Twelve ultimately points beyond itself. The final words of Malachi speak of a coming Elijah who will prepare the way for the Day of the Lord. The New Testament identifies this messenger as John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus Christ—the One to whom all the prophets point. In Christ, God's warnings find their fulfillment, for He bears judgment in our place. In Christ, God's promises become certain, for He is the Savior, King, and Shepherd long foretold.

The Book of the Twelve reminds us that God speaks with one voice throughout Scripture. His message has never changed: repent, believe, and trust in His mercy. He disciplines those He loves, restores those who return to Him, and keeps every promise He has made.

Twelve prophets. One scroll. One God. One Savior.