



But I trust in you, LORD;

I SAY, "YOU ARE  
MY GOD."  
MY TIMES ARE  
IN YOUR HANDS.

PSALM 31:14-15, NIV

# St. Mark Lutheran Church

2000 Clay Avenue Waco, Texas 76706

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## A LOVING WORD TO THOSE GUESTS WHO WISH TO COMMUNE

We believe, as Scripture teaches, that the Body and Blood of our Lord are truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament and those who eat and drink unworthily, that is, not believing these truths, do so to their great harm. Also, Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is professed at this altar. Therefore, if you are not yet instructed, in doubt, or hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, you are requested to refrain from the table and speak to the Pastor or Elder to see how you can prepare in the future to also receive this gift of grace.

## DIRECTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor will deliver communion to those in the pews first. If you would prefer the pastor to bring communion to your pew, please let him know. Then the communicants will be ushered down the SIDE aisle beginning with the pulpit side of the church. If you are unable to kneel, you may stand in front of the rail. After receiving the Sacrament, please use the CENTER aisle to return to your seat. If you are a guest, please see our communion statement above.

### *Prayer before communing:*

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### *Prayer after communing:*

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



*"The Son of Man  
is coming at an hour  
you do not expect."*

LUKE 12:40, ESV

St. Mark Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, Historic, Liturgical, Lutheran Congregation in the heart of Waco, Texas. We have been serving Waco and the surrounding communities since 1917.

**Our Mission Statement:**

**Learning, Living and Sharing Christ's Love**

**SERVING US TODAY**

Rev. David Bergman, Guest Pastor

Carol Emley, Organist

**Online Giving ...**

Some of our members have found that giving online is easier than remembering their envelopes. If you'd like to give online, whether it's a one-time gift or a recurring donation, here's a QR code to get you started. If you have any questions about online donations, please contact Michael Mehler.



**Stewardship Notes**

**“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” Luke 2:21**

There it is: the shortest Gospel lesson of the whole Church Year. It is for the Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. What more do you need to know than the name of Jesus — “the Lord saves.” That's who Jesus is: the Lord who saves us sinners. That simple Gospel message is the foundation of our faith and the strength to live out our faith.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
December 31, 2025**



Hymn of Invocation	p. 899
<i>“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”</i>	
Vespers	p. 229
Psalm 31	<i>(in front of hymnal)</i>
Collect of the Day	<i>(see page 4)</i>
Hymn	p. 733
<i>“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”</i>	
Collect of the Day	<i>(see page 4)</i>
Old Testament Lesson	<i>(see page 4)</i>
Epistle	<i>(see page 4)</i>
Holy Gospel	<i>(see page 5)</i>
Apostles' Creed	p. 191
Hymn of the Day	p. 362
<i>“O Sing of Christ”</i>	
Sermon	<i>“Grateful Reflections; Confident Expectations” Psalm 31:14-15a</i>
Offering	<i>(Offering plates are near the doors as you exit)</i>
The Litany	p. 288
Corporate Confession and Absolution	p. 290
Service of the Sacrament	p. 208
Distribution Hymns	<i>“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”</i>
	p. 621
	<i>“My Soul Rejoices”</i>
	p. 933
	<i>“A Great and Mighty Wonder”</i>
	p. 383
Nunc Dimittis	p. 211
Post-Communion Collect	
Benedicamus & Benediction	p. 212
Hymn of Departure	p. 390
<i>“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”</i>	

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.  
Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Lesson

*Isaiah 30:15–17*

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 30.

<sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,  
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”  
But you were unwilling, <sup>16</sup>and you said,  
“No! We will flee upon horses”;  
therefore you shall flee away;  
and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;  
therefore your pursuers shall be swift.  
<sup>17</sup>A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;  
at the threat of five you shall flee,  
till you are left  
like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,  
like a signal on a hill.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 8:28, 31–39*

**L** A reading from Romans, chapter 8.

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he

not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 12:35–40*

**L** A reading from Luke, chapter 12.

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**