

## **ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

**945 Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122**

**Phone (262) 797-2970**

**Rev. Eric C. Skovgaard, Administrative Pastor**

### *CHRISTMAS EVE*

*Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.*

### **Lessons and Carols**



**EGL WHY Statement: "God has established EGL to proclaim Christ, receiving and sharing His gifts in Word and Sacrament."**

## About Our Service

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's [College] on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean of King's Chapel after experience as an army chaplain, which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Evensong, topped and tailed with carols, had been the Christmas Eve service until then but the young Dean, only thirty-four at the time, decided that A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols would be a more uplifting occasion...The service was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass had been removed from the Chapel – some [claim] you could hear the tar-paper flapping in the background over the radio. In the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs... Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and the words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the Bidding Prayer. Personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light'. Many today will think of a loved one who has died in the course of the last year when they hear those words." – from the Introduction to the 2019 King's College Service Folder. We have adapted the service for our own use here at Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church.

## Preservice

## Welcome and Announcements

## Prelude

## Once in Royal David's City – David Cherwien

### Opening Hymn

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
    Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby  
    In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
    Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
    And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

### 376, Once in Royal David's City

- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,  
    Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
    Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
    Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
    Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## *STAND*

### **The Bidding Prayer**

P Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Church, dedicated to Christ, our Lord, glad with our carols of praise. But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and health over all the earth; for unity and goodwill within the Church He came to build, especially within the United States of America.

And because this gladdens His heart, let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold and the hungry, the abused, the exploited, the persecuted and the hated for Christ's sake, and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those that mourn; the isolated, the lonely and the unloved; the elderly and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

And let us hold in our hearts all those who, even as we are gathered here, endure the dangers and struggles of war, praying that the story of the Christ-child may draw them closer to the nearness of God's love, and offer new hope in the gospel of God's peace and loving-kindness.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of grace, using the prayer Christ himself taught us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C Our Father who art in heaven...**

### **Opening Versicles**

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

**C the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**C and the day is almost over.**

P Let your light scatter the darkness

**C and illumine Your Church.**

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await His appearance pray:

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

**C Come, Lord, Jesus.**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with your spirit.**

P The Almighty God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- bless us with his grace! May Christ give us the joys of everlasting life! And unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all!

**C Amen.**

*SIT*

### **Carol**

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.

**366, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**  
3 All you, beneath your heavy load,  
By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour,  
Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace;  
Of Him the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### **First Lesson**

### **Genesis 3:8-19**

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I

heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”  
<sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I  
commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she  
gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that  
you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to  
the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all  
beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I  
will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he  
shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” <sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will surely  
multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for  
your husband, and he shall rule over you.” <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to  
the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat  
of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
<sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the  
sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Carol Response**

**373, See Amid the Winter’s Snow**

1 See amid the winter’s snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years. *Refrain*

2 Lo, within a stable lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*

*ref* Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

3 Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this! *Refrain*

4 Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee  
In Thy sweet humility. *Refrain*

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**Second Lesson**

**Genesis 22:15-18**

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself  
I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son,  
your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of  
heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his  
enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have  
obeyed my voice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Carol Response

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

## 370, What Child Is This

2 Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98  
Text: Public domain

## Third Lesson

## Isaiah 11:1-9

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Carol Response

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948  
Text: Public domain

## 359, Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.

## Fourth Lesson

## Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Carol Response

## 356, The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady."  
Gloria!

- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady."  
Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady,  
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady."  
Gloria!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924; Basque, c. 18th cent.  
Text: Public domain

## Fifth Lesson

**Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.  
<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Carol Response

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

## 361, O Little Town of Bethlehem

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!



3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93  
Text: Public domain

## Sixth Lesson

**Luke 2:8-16**

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Carol Response

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

*ref* Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light.  
*Refrain*

## 367, Angels From the Realms of Glory

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

△ 5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Homily

**“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6)**

## Offering

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming – Johannes Brahms**

*[Please Note: Ushers will come to the end of each pew with their candles lit.  
Tip only unlit candle toward lit one to avoid wax dripping.  
The congregation will begin singing when all candles have been lit.  
Candles are to be extinguished after the blessing.]*

## Closing Carol

## 363, Silent Night, Holy Night

- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
Text: Public domain

*STAND*

## Collect of the Day

P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Blessing

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C Amen.**

## Postlude

**Angels from the Realms of Glory – Robert A. Hobby**

## Participants

Preacher

Pastor Eric Skovgaard

Organist

Richard C. Ewert

Clarinet

Lynn Crowell

Guitar

Tom Crowell

Elder

5:00 Mattias Goldenstein, 8:00 Doug Greik

Chancel Assistant

5:00 Mark Ewert, 8:00 Jim Olson

Usher Team on duty

5:00 Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Matthew Ewert,

Sam Ewert, Peter Holzwart, Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch

8:00 Sharon Boudro, Lizzie Ky, Tyler Ky, Kirk Midtbo,

Emily Krueger, Jason Krueger, Diane Olson, Jim Olson, Sam Thompson

**THANKS!** Your EGL community requires the diligent efforts of many volunteers, offering up their time, talents, and treasures. From those on the Altar Guild who set the table for the LORD each week, to those who serve on the various elected boards bearing the weight of the church's legal and fiduciary responsibilities, to those who take care of the property, to those who lend their efforts to enriching the musical life of our worship, to those who assist as ushers and chancel assistants and live-streamers, making sure that you have the best worship experience possible, to those who prepare the coffee and treats for us to enjoy after worship, to those who have prepared and led various studies, to those who quietly give and pray for the expansion of God's kingdom of grace -- a grateful church remembers you in thanksgiving!

## Travail

The young woman trembles.  
Every inmost part of her is  
shaken, all comfort broken.  
Her hand gropes for something firm to grasp.  
but all that was certain has become  
obscure, all encompassing,  
racked with pain.  
Scarcely able to catch her breath,  
she feels each wave larger, more  
frightening than the last.  
And the great wave breaks over her,  
she is broken,  
momentarily forgetting what she accepted,  
what love she bears,  
yet choosing to believe when all seems lost.  
Suddenly and completely  
she, still bathed in sweat,  
enfolds love in her arms,  
knows joy as one victorious,  
sees clearly as one who has been  
stretched and changed,  
that peace is always  
born of travail.

By June M. Schulte Morehouse Publishing