

## **ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

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

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

**Rev. Joshua D. Teggatz, Associate Pastor**



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

**Lessons and Carols**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

### **Once in Royal David's City – Ryan Meyer**

### **Opening Hymn**

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

- 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.
  
- 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

### **Opening Versicles**

P Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you:

**C He is Christ the Lord.**

P This will be a sign to you:

**C You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.**

### **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,  
          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.**

**P**   May the almighty God bless you with His grace!  
      May Christ give you the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of  
      the citizens above may the King of Angels bring you!

**C   Amen.**

### **Carol**

### **379 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**1**   O come, all ye faithful,  
      Joyful and triumphant!  
      O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
      Come and behold Him  
      Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"O Thou who, when we loved Thee not,  
Didst love and save us all,  
Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind,  
O hear us when we call."  
(LSB 569:4)*

### **Carol Response**

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

ref Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### **373 See Amid the Winter's Snow**

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

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

## 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us  
In need of illumination;  
Come scatter the shades of sin and death  
And shatter their domination.  
Be guiding our footsteps on the path  
Of peace, in Your presence dawning."  
(LSB 936:4)*

## Carol

## 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 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.
- 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

### Third Lesson

**Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."*



**Carol****375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending  
And in love our race befriending;  
In our need His help extending,  
Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.
- 4 From the bondage that oppressed us,  
From sin's fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us,  
We, the captives, now are free.
- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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**Fourth 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,  
Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel's flaming sword  
-- Come, open heaven's door."  
(LSB 342:4)*

### **Carol**

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

- 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.

- 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.

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

## **Fifth 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"O Lord, our hearts awaken  
To know and love You more,  
In faith to stand unshaken,  
In spirit, to adore,  
That we, through this world moving,  
Each glimpse of heaven proving,  
May reap its fullness there."  
(LSB 402:3)*

### **Carol**

### **377 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing**

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.
- 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?
- 3 When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place,  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

- 4 All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen."

Text: English  
Text: Public domain

## Sixth 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart."  
(LSB 358:13)*

## Carol

## 365 Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Seventh 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen."  
(LSB 384:1)*

## Carol

## 369 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

- 1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.

- 2 In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:  
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
- 3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
- 4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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## **Eighth Lesson**

## **Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then,

opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.  
<sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"Hail, O all-inviting Savior!  
Gentiles now their offerings bring,  
In Your temples seek Your favor,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit,  
Live devoted to Your praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,  
Grateful anthems ever raise."  
(LSB 409:3)*

### **Carol**

### **370 What Child Is This**

- 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!
- 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!



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!

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

### Ninth Lesson

### John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*"Christ, the Word of God incarnate,  
Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father,  
Perfect God, the great I AM;  
Christ, the Light, You shine unvanquished,  
Light and life You bring to all;  
Light our path with Your own presence,  
Grant us grace to heed Your call."  
(LSB 540:1)*

**Carol****366 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

- 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 blessed angels sing.
- 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

## Homily

## "A Savior Has Been Born" (Matthew 1:21)

## Offering

## All Is Well – Wayne Kirkpatrick & Michael W. Smith



To give to Elm Grove Lutheran Church, you can scan the QR code (left) to go to our online giving site.

*[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.]*

## Prayers

### Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

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.**

### Benediction

P May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things both earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the Divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always!

**C Amen**

### Closing Hymn

### 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

## **Postlude**

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – Kenneth D. Varner**

### **Participants**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Skovgaard
Assisting Minister	8:00 Pastor Teggatz
Organist	Richard C. Ewert
Voice	Mark Ewert
Clarinet	Lynn Crowell
Guitar	Tom Crowell
Elder	5:00 John Wolck, 8:00 Doug Grelk
Chancel Assistant	5:00 Doug Grelk, 8:00 Kirk Midtbo
Usher Team on duty	5:00 Tom Brojanac, Ben Ewert, Emily Ewert, Peter Holzwart, Ken Schuppner, Duane Wunsch
	8:00 Sharon Boudro, Kirk Midtbo, Emily Krueger, Jason Krueger, Diane Olson, Jim Olson, Sam Thompson