

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**  
**April 28, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**



*"Love Di-Vine"*

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[www.littleprairieumc.org](http://www.littleprairieumc.org)

Our vision: Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

**WELCOME AND GATHERING**

**Gathering Music**     *"Bind Us Together" by Bob Gillman arr. Mark Hayes*  
*Luann Alderks*

**Welcome**     *Pastor Penny Bonsell*  
**Centering Time**

## **Call to Worship**

Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

**We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

**We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

**We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

**We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.**

**Hymn:**            *Love Divine, All Love Excelling UMH #384*            *All*

## **Opening Prayer:**

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections.

**Inspire us with a love so strong, with such growth, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.**

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven! Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace**  
**Children's Moment**

## **THE WORD**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

**John 15:1-8**

**1 John 4:7-21**

**Message**

*"Love Di-Vine"*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Hymn**      *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*    UMH #402      All

### **Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People**

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within. That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

#### **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace. May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

#### **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

#### **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—health as only you, O God, can bring. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

#### **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

#### **May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

**Amen**

**Offering**      *"What Wondrous Love Is This" by William Walker arr. Carol Tornquist  
Luann Alderks*

**Doxology**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*    UMH # 95      All

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of joy, we offer our gifts this day, as we reflect on the wisdom of your Word. Jesus urges us to hold onto him, to stay connected to his example, presence, and the fulfillment he brings.

**He reveals that our joy finds completeness when it is woven into his divine joy.**

Help us abide in him through love, obeying his commandment to love one another. **In acts of service, healing, and selfless generosity, may our joy be sustained, a shared and everlasting gift from the source of all joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

And the Prayer in which Christ unites us . . .

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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. Amen.**

**Hymn**      *Abide with Me*    *UMH #700*

*All*

## **SENDING**

Branches of the Vine, go from this place blessed by Love to work in love with your family, your friends, your neighbors, and strangers who will become friends, bearing the fruit of the life-giving Vine as you cultivate abundant life wherever you go. **Amen. God Bless! Go in love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Amen.**

**Postlude**    *"Great Is the Lord"* by Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith  
*arr. Mark Hayes*

*Luann Adlerks*

## **INFORMATION**

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks, Certified Lay Speaker and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, Admin Secretary: Sue Rollins, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance Committee Chair: Larry Alderks, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions and Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Outreach and Nurture Chair: Jeff Sartor

## **Upcoming Events**

Mon. April 29, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, L&M; (every Monday)

Wed. May 1, 9-10:30 pm: Pastor Penny at James Gang Coffee Shop

Sat. May 4, 9-11 am Soul Sisters: Fairy Garden Creations All Welcome! \$15/garden

Fri. May 10, Youth Group 5:30-8 pm starting with dinner

Mon. May 20 7pm: Admin board meeting

Sun-Thurs., July 28- Aug 1, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm, VBS Theater Camp Little Prairie's "*Holy*"wood Productions. Children and youth will be invited to create, direct, act, sing, and build the set and stage to tell Bible stories. We are hoping to create a short movie of our adventure.

See our website for more details at [www.littleprairieumc.org](http://www.littleprairieumc.org).

### **Website**



### **Online giving**

