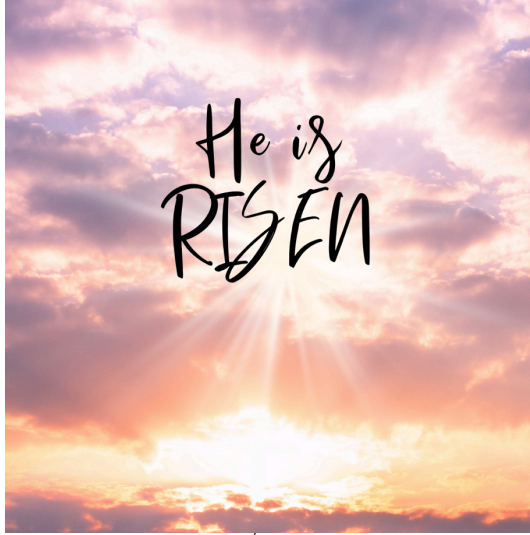


**Easter Sunday**  
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**  
**April 20, 2025, 9:30 am**



***“I have seen the Lord”***

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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** *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" Tune: Easter Hymn arr. Mark Hayes  
Luann Alderks and Tom Hollenhorst*

**Welcome**

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

Christ is Risen!

**Christ Is Risen Indeed!**

## **Call to Worship**

Beloved, Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Our Savior is risen!

**Our Savior is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Steadfast Love is risen!

**Steadfast Love is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

This is the day that God has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2024.*

## **Hymn**

*Up from the Grave He Arose*  
*Little Prairie Choir leading*

*UMH # 322 All*

## **Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus, today we come celebrating God, who looked beyond our faults and saw our needs. We come celebrating that victory is ours today.

**We come rejoicing that sin and evil did not get the last word. We praise you and we thank you for being a loving, patient God and for sending us Jesus Christ!**

Thank you for giving sinners like us a second, third, and endless chances to right our wrongs and follow the Author of Grace. Thank you for giving the Good News of your Son's resurrection to the dutiful Mary Magdalene.

**You called her name, and she finally believed and proclaimed that she had seen the Risen Lord!**

Like Mary, time and time again, you have called our name. You have gotten our attention, and we stopped wallowing in despair, sin, and self-reliance.

**We turned, and there you were! Assuring us that God delivered you from death and God will deliver us also from sin and death.**

Today, we put Mary's proclamation in our hearts and on our lips.

**May our tears turn into laughter as we hold fast to the Easter knowledge that in Christ, all things are possible, if we will only believe.**

**Amen.**

*Adapted from Sherrie Dobbs Johnson in The Africana Worship Book, Year C (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008), 127.*

## **Sharing of the Peace**

**Special Music**

*“Easter Angel Song” by Cindy Berry*

*Little Prairie Choir*

**The Blooming Cross**

*“The Mercy Tree” by Krissy Nordhoff & Michael Williams Neale  
arr. Mary McDonald  
in meditation and silence*

*Luann Alderks*

**Children’s Moment**

**THE WORD**

**Psalm 118:1-2**

**John 20:1-18**

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks Be to God**

**Message**

*“I have seen the Lord”*

*Pastor Penny Bonsell*

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**Hymn**

*Thine Be the Glory UMH #308*

*All*

**Prayers of the People**

Christ, we come to the empty tomb, we see our own death, we see our own tomb, we see our own emptiness. And we remember how we have treated other people-members of our family, friends, and neighbours.

**Lord, we come to your tomb, we see a hungry world before us, the pain of starving children, the guilt of war on our hands, and we know that collectively we share in those injustices.**

Lord, we come to the empty tomb, we search within ourselves, and we cannot escape what we are, people caught up in the pain of our own wrongdoing, for some, a deep sense of loneliness and a frustration of what we would be but are not.

**Lord, when we come to the empty tomb, we lay before you our pain, our emptiness and look to you for hope.**

People of God, why do you seek the living among the dead in an empty tomb? Are you afraid, are you uncertain, and are you uncomfortable here?

**Our wounds are deep, we have turned away from that man, we have broken with him and seek his fellowship.**

Do not dwell on your wounds any longer for he has risen to heal you, he has risen to forgive you; he has risen to change us all and bind us together now. Christ

has risen to forgive us.

## **Thanks be to God.**

*Excerpted from Service of Holy Communion 2010, posted on the [River of Life](#) website.*

**Offering**      *"He Is Lord" Tune: Traditional arr. Mark Hayes*      *Luann Alderks*

**Doxology**      *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH# 95)*      *All*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. In this period of spiritual renewal, may our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life everlasting.

**Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light dawned in our hearts. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. Amen.**

And the prayer which 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**      *Christ the Lord Has Risen Today UMH #302*

*All*

## **SENDING**

May God's abiding love and hope give us new life. May God's unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled. And may God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace. For Steadfast Love is risen! May the God who loves and resurrects us, be fully present in you. May a stranger see in you a friend and neighbor. God sends you, the Spirit fills you, Christ goes with you and you with Christ, always and everywhere. **Amen.**

**Steadfast Love is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.**

**God Bless! Go in love, joy, and peace. Shalom. Hallelujah!**

**Postlude**      *"Rejoice, the Lord Is King" Tune: Darwall arr. Mark Hayes*

*Luann Alderks*

## INFORMATION

Website



Online giving



Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Music Director and pianist: Luann Alderks, Certified Lay Minister 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 Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions and Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst  
Visit [www.littleprairieumc.org](http://www.littleprairieumc.org) for more information

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