**Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025**

**Prairieland Parish**

*As we unite**in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God*

*+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++.*

***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***



**Prelude – Welcome - Announcements**

**Opening Proclamation**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen Indeed!!**

**A CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

**Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

Walk in the light of his love.

**Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.**

Come, let us worship the One Who overcame death.

**Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. In his name, we pray. Amen.**

**Praise Hymn #333. “I’m Goin’ a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”**

**1 I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,**

**I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,**

**I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,**

**and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**2 I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,**

**I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,**

**I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,**

**and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**3 I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,**

**I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,**

**I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,**

**and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

**4 I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,**

**I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,**

**I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,**

**and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**Gospel Reading**…………………………………………………...… **John 20:19-31**

**New Revised Standard Version**

**Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

**Jesus and Thomas**

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

**The Purpose of This Book**

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue[b] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

**Children’s Message**

**Faith Hymn UMH #304. “Easter People, Raise Your Voices”**

**1
Easter people raise your voices
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring**

**Christ has brought us Heaven's choices**

**Heavenly music let it ring**

**Alleluia. Alleulia.**

**Easter people let it sing**

 **2
Fear of death can no more stop us
From our pressing here below**

**For our Lord empowered us**

**To triumph over every foe**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**On to victory now we go**

**3**

**Every day to us is Easter**

**With its resurrection song**

**When in trouble move the faster**

**to our God who rights the wrong**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**See the power of heavenly throngs.**

**\*Meditation\***

**Joys/Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer/Lord’s Prayer**

Risen Christ, our eternal Savior, Like the disciples, we are gathered together the week after Easter:

wondering whether it is true, marveling at the possibility,and daring to hope.

Like the disciples, we are sometimes afraid, sometimes full of doubt.

But in your extravagant generosity, your boundless love, you appear to us in our fear and love us in our doubts and grant us the oceans of your peace.

Thank you for loving us as we are.

Teach us not to hide from our doubt, but to recognize it as a door to mystery and to deeper faith.

After all, the disciples’ fear became a visitation as they saw you among them, risen and triumphant.

Thomas’ doubt became a moment of revelation as he saw and touched you, and finally believed.

This morning we pray for the many men and women in our society who have no faith at all.

There are so many who live without hope, without knowledge of your resurrection, without your light in their lives.

Grant us the courage to live as witnesses to your resurrection. Risen Christ, be light in our world.

And grant to all of us, living Lord Christ, renewed faith, great courage, and your boundless peace.

We rejoice this morning with…{insert names}

Loving God, we pray for….{insert names}

We offer all these prayers, as well as the unspoken longings of our hearts, to you, liberating God, in the name of Jesus, our liberating Savior who taught us to pray: Our Father…

 **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

O God of our Salvation, we are witnesses to your amazing deeds! By the resurrection of your Son Jesus, you have opened the gate to eternal life. We are grateful for your gifts of forgiveness and a new start. Let the obedience of Christ, the righteous one, become the chief cornerstone of our lives. Help us to use our spiritual gifts and monetary blessings be a testimony to your glory. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

**Departing Hymn #467 “Trust and Obey”**

**1 When we walk with the Lord**

**in the light of his word,**

**what a glory he sheds on our way!**

**While we do his good will,**

**he abides with us still,**

**and with all who will trust and obey.**

**Refrain:**

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way**

**to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

**2 Not a burden we bear,**

**not a sorrow we share,**

**but our toil he doth richly repay;**

**not a grief or a loss,**

**not a frown or a cross,**

**but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]**

**3 But we never can prove**

**the delights of his love**

**until all on the altar we lay;**

**for the favor he shows,**

**for the joy he bestows,**

**are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]**

**4 Then in fellowship sweet**

**we will sit at his feet,**

**or we'll walk by his side in the way;**

**what he says we will do,**

**where he sends we will go;**

**never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]**

 **Benediction**

 Go from here as witnesses of what you have seen and heard.

Share God’s love with those you meet.

Bring hope to those who are in despair.

Live lives of gratitude and praise. Amen.

**Postlude**