

April 27, 2025 Second Sunday of Easter

(†) The congregation is invited to stand as your able (BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

Loving God,

this is the day that you are making.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

You have raised Christ from the grave and overcome death.

You have defeated the power of evil and oppression.

We long for your presence,

and we open ourselves to your Spirit.

Christ, our living Chief,

you are with us,

and we give you thanks.

We look for signs of your rising;

and we live in a world

that longs for your living presence.

Breathe your Spirit into us,

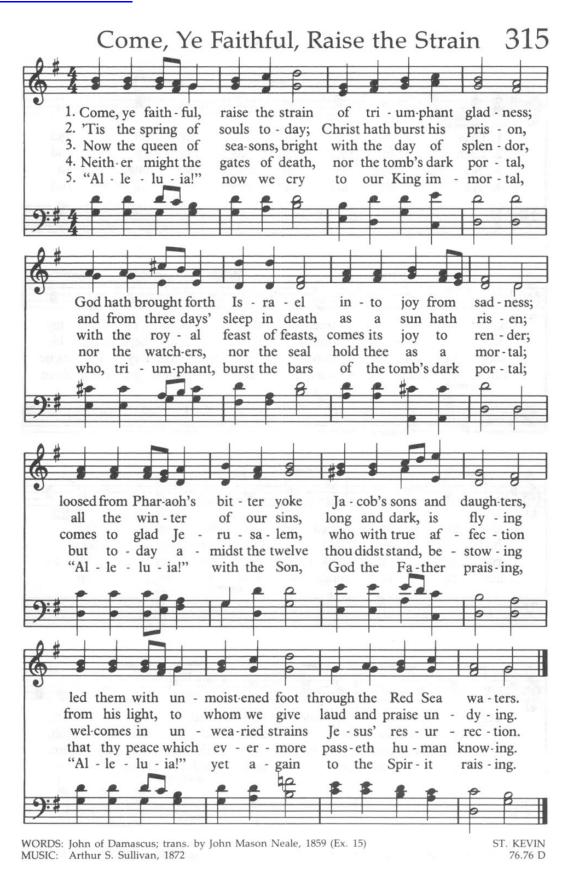
and raise us to new life,

that we may be living evidence of your resurrection,

the Body of your risen Christ.

Amen.

† HYMN OF PRAISE



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† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Must we see you in order to believe you, Lord? Is seeing truly believing? Are we to be prisoners of our senses, distrusting and rejecting whatever we cannot see, touch, or hear? Yet you are faithful you give sight to the blind, you carry us when we are weary, you call us to your side. The locked room of our hearts opens at the turn of your key. Speak your words of life to us again: "Do not doubt, only believe." Speak your words of life,

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

that we might live.

The peace of God be with you. Receive God's forgiveness and the promise of the Spirit, for lesus is risen from the dead. Seen or unseen, he is present in our midst, and we see the presence of Christ reflected in each other's faces. Happy are those who have not seen, yet have come to believe.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 5:27-32 (Pg. 889) * New Testament Lesson:

You Lord are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-maker and sword bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You the everlasting instant;
You whom we both scorn and crave.

Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross, shining in the eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss, You the everlasting instant, You who are both gift and cost.

You who walk each day beside us, sit in power on God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
You, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus,
worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory,
worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the ever-lasting instant,

You, who are our death and life.

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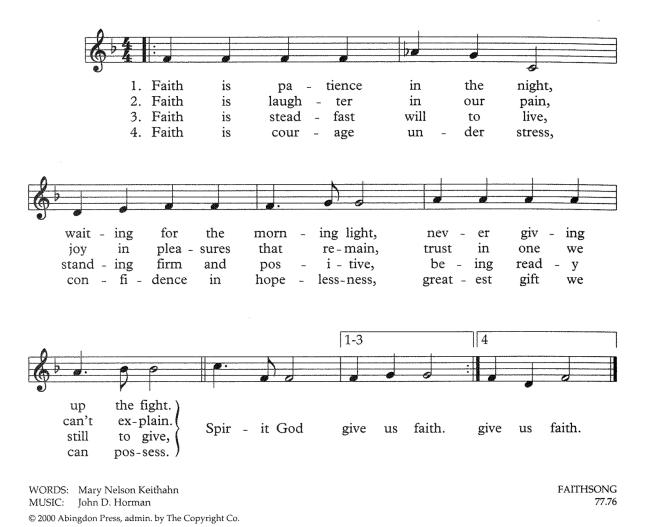
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TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL

† HYMN OF PREPARATION

2211 Faith Is Patience in the Night



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(Pg. 883) ** **† GOSPEL LESSON:** John 20: 19-31

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,

For the word of God among us,

For the word of God within us,

Thanks be to God! ALL:

† GLORIA PATRI



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MESSAGE: Ken Manning



THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

REFRAIN

I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams. I love to tell the story, it did so much for me; and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. REFRAIN

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. REFRAIN

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. REFRAIN

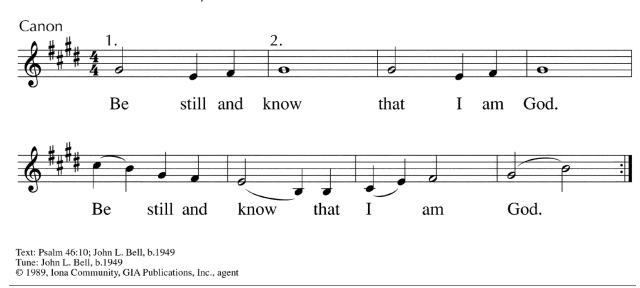
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Be Still, and Know That I Am God



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SILENT PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (See Above)



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OFFERTORY MUSIC

† DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

† HYMN OF DEDICATION



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*Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

<u>Liturgist:</u>

<u>Video and Sound Engineer</u>

Altar Flowers:

Debbie Boynton

John Wilderman

Jane Combs

<u>Cover Image:</u> Strozzi, Bernardo, 1581-1644. <u>Incredulity of St. Thomas</u>, from **Art in the**

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnaas-Holmes at unfoldinglight.com & Ministry Matters

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Looking Ahead

Readings for May 4, 2025

Holy Communion on the Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6 / Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14 / John 21:1-19

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