

**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
February 23, 2025**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

John Steinginga

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

**Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

—Psalm 24:7-10, NIV

! **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

John Steinginga

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

You hold the heavens in your hand; all stars rejoice in your glory.

You come in the sunrise and the song of morn
and bless the splendor of the noonday.

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

The stars in their courses magnify you;
day and night tell of your glory.

Your peace blows over the earth,
and the breath of your mouth fills all space.

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm;
the song of the wind whispers of your majesty.

You satisfy all things living with your abundance,
and our hearts bow at your presence.

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

Accept us, your children, eternal Father,
and hear our prayer.

Bend over us, eternal Love, and bless us. **Amen.**

🔔 **Opening Song**

All My Boast is in Jesus

Verse 1

*What wonder of wonders, what love is this;
That Christ would die for me!
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness, This sinner's only plea.
O foolish pride, be crucified; the work is finished!*

Chorus

*All my boast is in Jesus, All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever, in what the Cross has done.*

Verse 2

*Now fully forgiven, my life is filled with graces undeserved.
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill, let praises now return.
Rise up, my soul, and bless the Lord! Who else is worthy?*

Chorus

*All my boast is in Jesus, All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever, in what the Cross has done.*

Bridge (2 times)

*O, praise the One, forever blessed! Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less than the love of Christ my Lord.*

Verse 3

*I boast not in riches, in strength or might, but in the grace of God.
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ in plenty or in want.
That I may know, that all may see. His pow'r within me!*

Chorus

*All my boast is in Jesus, All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever, in what the Cross has done.*

Chorus 2

*Now I stand in this freedom; ransomed, clean in His sight,
oh, and I cannot be ashamed for my boast is Jesus Christ.
My boast is Jesus Christ. Forever, my boast is Jesus Christ.*

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

John Steiginga

God's Word assures us:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

—based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

John Steiginga

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Do not cast me from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

John Steiginga

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.

—John 1:9, 12, NIV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but also in truth and action.

—from 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

Offering**Offertory** **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

 **Prayer of Dedication** (*Responsively*)

Almighty God, you have given us everything.
Not only did you create us, but you provide for our every need.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

When we turned away from you, you reached down to us.
You lifted us up and freed us through the gift of your Son.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

You are with us always. You watch over our coming and our going.
Your Holy Spirit guides us and leads us every step of our lives.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

For your abundant grace we give you thanks.
Gratefully we offer the gifts you first gave us.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.

Your love endures forever.

Use our time, our talents, and our tithes for your glory.
May it bless others with hope, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

 **Preparation Hymn 274**

Break Thou, The Bread of Life

Scripture Reading

John 5:31-47

³¹ "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true. ³³ You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. ³⁴ I don't receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

³⁶ "But I have a greater testimony than John's because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ The Father who

sent me has himself testified about me. You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven't seen his form. ³⁸ You don't have his word residing in you, because you don't believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

⁴¹ "I do not accept glory from people, ⁴² but I know you—that you have no love for God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and yet you don't accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don't seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷ But if you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe my words?"

Sermon *"Orthokardia - A Right-Hearted Faith"*
 Rev. Tim Latham

 **Hymn of Response 43** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Profession of Faith** *(In Unison)*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.

**All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.**

—from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord in your mercy
All: Hear our Prayer

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Commission Song** *Jesus Firm Foundation*

Verse 1

*How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word
What more can He say than to you He has said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled*

Verse 2

*Fear not He is with us O be not dismayed
For He is our God our Sustainer and Strength
He'll be our Defender and cause us to stand
Upheld by His merciful almighty hand*

Chorus

*How firm our foundation
How sure our salvation
And we will not be shaken
Jesus firm foundation*

Verse 3

*The soul that is trusting in Jesus as Lord
Will press on enduring the darkest of storm
And though even hell should endeavor to shake
He'll never no never no never forsake
He'll never no never no never forsake*

Chorus

Bridge

*Age to age He stands faithful to the end
All may fade away but
He will remain He will remain*

Chorus

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**