



A Mighty Fortress is Our God
July 18, 2021
Eighth Sunday of Trinitytide



MEDITATION

We sing this psalm to the praise of God, because God is with us and powerfully and miraculously preserves and defends his church and his word against all fanatical spirit, against the gates of hell, against the implacable hatred of the devil, and against all the assaults of the world, the flesh and sin

- Martin Luther

Few psalms breath the spirit of sturdy confidence in the Lord in the midst of very real dangers as strongly as this one.

- H. C. Leopold

Readings for the coming week

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers and hymns. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday the 19th	Psalm 99:24-25	2 Samuel 6:6-12a	Acts 21:27-39
Tuesday, the 20th	Psalm 99:24-25	2 Samuel 3:12-16	Acts 23:12-35
Wednesday the 21st	Psalm 99:24-25	2 Samuel 6:16-23	Luke 7:31-35
Thursday the 22nd	Psalm 99:24-25	1 Chronicles 11:15-19	Colossians 1:15-20
Friday the 23rd	Psalm 99:24-25	1 Chronicles 14:1-2	Acts 17:16-31
Saturday the 24th	Psalm 99:24-25	1 Chronicles 15:1-2,	Luke 18:35-43

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WELCOME

***Second City Church is a community that exists
to worship the Triune God
and to celebrate, in word and deed,
the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.***

WHO we are? Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

WHAT is the Gospel? It is the announcement (literally “good news”) that Jesus’ cross and resurrection were the beginning of salvation for the entire cosmos and will be completed when he returns. God is restoring the peace (shalom) of his creation through the work of Christ and is renewing people, families, neighborhoods, cities and nations, as people trust and follow him.

HOW do we celebrate the Gospel? Through faithful proclamation and obedient demonstration. Weekly worship services are the core opportunity for everyone to know how God is setting things right and to thank him publicly for it. This public celebration spills over to the rest of our lives where we serve our neighbors as Christ has served us.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor. If you would like to indicate your presence to us or include a prayer request, please fill out the form on the back page of this bulletin and place it in one of the slotted boxes in the back of the Social Hall.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

Praise the Lord!

**Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!**

Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore!

**From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

Psalm 113:1-3

Gathering Hymn - *How Firm A Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Even down to old age all my people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love
And when with white hair shall their temples adorn
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be born

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Greeting

The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!
Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 113:4-9

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Confession Hymn - *Jesus My Only Hope*

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

Je - sus, Je sus, Son of God Jes - us my on - ly
hope of sal - va - tion, have mer - cy on me, a sin - ner.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus our sins are forgiven
Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing
Our helper he a mid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe – doeth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He

Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And tho this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed – His truth to triumph thro' us
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him
His rage we can endure, for lo his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all the earthly pow'rs, No thanks to them, abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours – Thro' him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also,
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge our strength and our shield
An ever present help
We will not fear though the earth gives way
And the mountains crash into the sea

(Refrain)

There is a river who's streams will make glad
The city of our most High King
God is within her, and she will not fail
He helps her at break of the day
Be still, and know
That I am God
Be still, and know
That I am God

Nations in uproar, men's kingdoms they fall
He speaks and the earth melts away
The worst we imagine the strongest of storms
Our fortress it will still remain

(Refrain)

Come, let us see what the Lord has done
The ruins he brings to the earth
He makes wars to cease to the ends of the
earth
He shatters the bow and the spear

(Refrain)

His Mercy Is More

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What love could remember no wrongs we have
done
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their
sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly
roam

What father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What riches of kindness he lavished on us
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

Living Our Faith

Psalm Reading

Psalm 46



LITURGY OF THE WORD

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
- 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah***
- 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
- 10 “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
- 11 **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah***

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. Amen. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 8:5-8

⁵ The Lord spoke to me again: ⁶ “Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, ⁷ therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, ⁸ and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.”

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon - Rev. Peter Rowan - *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Confession of Faith

Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humans can do,
for we believe that one day every challenge to God’s rule will be crushed.
His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We long for that day
when our bodies are raised,
the Lord wipes away our tears,
and we dwell forever in the presence of God.
We will take our place in the new creation,
where there will be no more death
or mourning or crying or pain,
and the Lord will be our light.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

On that day
we will see our Savior face to face,
sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King, just and gracious.
He will set all things right,
judge evil, and condemn the wicked.
We face that day without fear,
for the Judge is our Savior,
whose shed blood declares us righteous.

We live confidently,
anticipating his coming,
offering him our daily lives—
our acts of kindness,
our loyalty, and our love—
knowing that he will weave
even our sins and sorrows
into his sovereign purpose.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

With the whole creation we join the song:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

He has made us a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and we will reign on earth.

God will be all in all, righteousness and peace will flourish, everything will be made new,
and every eye will see at last that our world belongs to God. Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!

Our World Belongs to God

Offering of Prayers of the People

We praise and thank you, O Lord, that you have fed us with your Word.

Grateful for your gifts and mindful of the communion of your saints, we offer to you our
prayers for all people.

God of compassion, we remember before you
the poor and the afflicted, the sick and the dying,
prisoners and all who are lonely, the victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity,
and all others who suffer from whatever their sufferings may be called. [*Silence*]

O Lord of providence holding the destiny of the nations in your hand,
we pray for our country.

Inspire the hearts and minds of our leaders that they, together with all our nation,
may first seek your kingdom and righteousness
so that order, liberty, and peace may dwell with your people. [*Silence*]

O God the Creator, we pray for all nations and peoples.

Take away the mistrust and lack of understanding that divide your creatures. [*Silence*]

O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggle upon the earth.

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Have mercy on its weakness, bring to an end its unhappy divisions, and scatter its fears. Look also upon the ministry of your church. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth. [Silence]

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior. **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts

Offer unto God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows unto the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates, boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically. Instructions for setting up online giving are available at the donation boxes.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is your living Word from before time and for all ages; by him you created all things, and by him you make all things new. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

freely *Leader:* *People* *echo*

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en

and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying;

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Sharing Holy Communion

Second City Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Christian church to join us in this sacrament. Non-communicants can come forward and ask for a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, ask a fellow worshiper to let the communion servers know. If you are unable to receive wine, you will find a chalice containing non-alcoholic grape juice at the station the pastor is serving. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ: and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - *Joy of Jesus*

May the grace of my God be with you
May the grace of my God be with you
May you know the grace of my God
And may the grace of my God be with you

May the love of my Lord be with you
May the love of my Lord be with you
And may you know the love of my Lord

And may the love of my Lord be with you

And may you dance and laugh and sing
May you know the warmth of His embrace
May you feel the brush of angel wings
Like the wind upon your face

May the joy of Jesus be with you
May the joy of Jesus be with you
May you know the joy of Jesus
And may the joy of Jesus be with you

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



MUSIC:

How Firm a Foundation

Authors: attributed to:
George Keith & R. Keen (1787)
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES
Used by Permission

Jesus My Only Hope

Words & Music by M. Monticchio (2010-2020)
Words based on "The Jesus Prayer"
Used by Permission

A Mighty Fortress

Author: Martin Luther (1529)
Translator: Frederick H. Hedge (1852)
Tune: EIN FESTE BURG
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Psalm 46

Mike Crawford (2009)
altered by Isaac Wardell 2010
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His Mercy is More

Matt Papa & Matt Boswell
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Messenger Hymns (admin. Music Service, Inc.)
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Gloria Patri

Lesser Doxology

Doxology

Thomas Ken (1674)

Sanctus

Original Simple
M. Monticchio (2010-2020)
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Joy of Jesus

Words and Music by Rich Mullins (1955-1997)
Paraphrase from Galatians 6:14
Used by Permission

Be Still My Soul

Words by Katherine von Schlegel, 1752
Tr. by Jane Borthwick, 1855
Music ©Breitkopf &Hartel, Wiesbaden
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O God of Love, O King of Peace

Words & Music by Henry Baker, 1861

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

Psalm 46, The Psalter, 1912
Music by Gottfried W. Fink, 1842

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Directory

The updated church directory is never quite finished. If you would still like to be added for the next printing, please fill out the contact information page and drop it in the collection box. There are hard copies of the first print of the directory in the social hall. If you would like an electronic copy, please email Cindy in the church office at office@secondcitychurch.org

Nursery

The nursery is open and we are in need of helpers to staff the nursery. Please email or see Jessi Gazsi at jessica.gazsi@gmail.com. You can also contact Cindy in our church office at office@secondcitychurch.org.

Hang Out at the Playground

Every other week, following the service, families are welcome to join us at the playground at Penn and Seyford for a time of singing and a children's lesson. Our next meeting date is **today**, July 25th, weather permitting. Please see Pastor Peter Rowan or Jesse Gazsi with questions.

The altar flowers today are in memory of Annalee Rose Cossick who recently passed away. Anna Lee was the 27 year old daughter of Faith McGill Cossick and the late Frank Cossick. Please pray for Annalee's family and friends as they mourn the death of this special young woman.

Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

_____ Visitor

_____ Regular Attendee

_____ Member

Name(s):

—

—

—

Address (please include city and zip):

—

—

—

Phone:

E-mail:
