



*Cruciformity*  
September 21, 2025  
*Fifteenth Sunday of Trinitytide*



# MEDITATION

Note well what it is that will make all the miseries of this world easy to endure; it is that we should transfer our thoughts to the eternity of the kingdom of heaven. If we look around us, a moment can seem a long time, but when we lift up our hearts heavenwards, a thousand years begin to be like a moment.

-John Calvin

If any man do a cruelty in my name, then, though he says the name of Aslan, it is Tash whom he serves and by Tash his deed is accepted.

- C. S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire [for happiness] in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man.

- Pascal, *Pensees*

|                        | Psalm               | Old Testament     | New Testament         |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday, September 22nd | Psalm 106:40-48     | Jeremiah 9:12-26  | Acts 4:1-12           |
| Tuesday the 23rd       | Psalm 106:40-48     | Jeremiah 10:1-16  | 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 |
| Wednesday the 24th     | Psalm 106:40-48     | Jeremiah 10:17-25 | Luke 20:45-21:4       |
| Thursday the 25th      | Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 | Jeremiah 23:9-22  | 2 Corinthians 8:8-15  |
| Friday the 26th        | Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 | Jeremiah 23:23-32 | Ephesians 2:1-10      |
| Saturday the 27th      | Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 | Jeremiah 24:1-10  | Luke 9:43b-48         |

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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.*

*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.*

## *For Parents:*

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

### *Infant & Toddler Care*

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have required background checks, and maintain a safe environment for your child(ren).

Pentecost Season, sometimes called Trinity Season, the Time of the Church, or Ordinary Time, is the long season that follows Pentecost until the end of the church year and the beginning of Advent. During this season we celebrate the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Church, and the growth that the church experiences guided by the Spirit. The symbols of the season are any Trinity symbol, images of the Apostles or Saints, symbols of the church, or symbols of Christ. The liturgical color for the season is green, symbolizing the new growth of the Church that the Spirit brings.

*Please note that our services are live-streamed.*



## LITURGY OF PREPARATION

### Words of Welcome

### Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**Serve the Lord with gladness!**

Come into his presence with singing!

**Know that the Lord, he is God!**

It is he who made us, and we are his;

**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

**and his courts with praise!**

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**For the Lord is good;**

**his steadfast love endures forever,**

**and his faithfulness to all generations.**

- Psalm 100

### Gathering Hymn -Come Thou Fount

Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come

And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be

Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above

## Confession Hymn - Kyrie

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God  
Have mercy on me a sinner  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God  
Have mercy on me a sinner

Kyrie Eleison, Lord Jesus Christ  
Kyrie Eleison, Have mercy on me a sinner  
Have mercy on me a sinner

## Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Dear God, my Heavenly Father,  
My heart is unclean, but you can purify it.  
My heart is full of darkness, but you can illuminate it.  
My heart is sad, but you can comfort it.  
My heart is wicked, but your love can change it.  
My heart is cold, but your love can warm it.  
My heart is weak, but you can strengthen it.  
My heart clings to the earth, but you can fill it with heavenly desires.  
My heart is full of sin, but you can adorn it with all virtues.  
My heart is wayward and inconstant, but you can make it content.  
Come then Holy Spirit and fill me with your love. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness & Peace

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*2 Corinthians 4:6*

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

## *Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies  
Called us by His grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes

He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He has washed us with His blood  
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation, threatens hard to bear us down  
For the Lord our strong salvation, holds in view the conqueror's crown

Let us wonder grace and justice, join and point to mercy's store  
When through grace in Christ our trust is, Justice smiles and asks no more

He who washed us with His blood  
He who washed us with His blood  
He who washed us with His blood  
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus, of the saints enthroned on high  
Here they trusted Him before us, now their praises fill the sky

Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood  
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

## ***Christ Is Mine Forevermore***

Mine are days that God has numbered, I was made to walk with Him  
Yet I look for worldly treasure, and forsake the King of kings  
But mine is hope in my Redeemer, though I fall His love is sure  
For Christ has paid for every failing, I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood  
Through the valley I must travel, where I see no earthly good  
But mine is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need  
I know my pain will not be wasted, Christ completes His work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way  
One with Christ I will encounter, harm and hatred for His name  
But mine is armour for this battle, strong enough to last the war  
And He has said He will deliver, safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its treasure, Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now O my soul, for His love is my reward  
Fear is gone and hope is sure, Christ is mine forevermore  
[Repeat]

And mine are keys to Zion city, where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its treasure, Christ is mine forevermore



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **Living Our Faith**

### **Blessing Our Children**

Jesus called the children to him and said,

**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,**

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.**

*September Memory Verse*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **Psalm Reading**

*Psalm 1; page 528*

### **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**

*Lamentations 4:1-2; page 819*

The Word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading**

*2 Corinthians 4; page 1147*

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 5:2-12; page 962*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## Sermon

Pastor Peter Rowan - *Cruciformity*

## Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

- *The Apostles' Creed*

## Offering of Prayers of the People

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

**Teach us, Lord, the way of your decrees, that we may follow it to the end. Give us understanding, so that we may keep your law and obey it with all our hearts. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.**

Merciful Father, through the work of your Holy Spirit you called us to be your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Turn our hearts toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our lives according to your word.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of your Word. By it, you work faith, life, and salvation in us. Help us, day by day, to not despise it, but hold it sacred and gladly hear it and learn it. Through your Word, continue to reveal Jesus to us all our days, and guide us to better understand who we are in Him and what you have called us to be; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace we dread, for your laws are good. How we long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve our life.**

Heavenly Father, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

## **Offering of Gifts**

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

*2 Corinthians 9:6*

*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 boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically on our website or by the QR code to the right.*



## **Doxology**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



## LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### **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**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

#### **Praise for Christ's Sacrifice**

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**Christ has died, Christ is 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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Sharing Holy Communion

## Closing Prayer

**O Lord God, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- 2 Corinthians 13:14

## Closing Hymn - Instrument of Peace

Lord make me, an instrument of peace  
An instrument of peace  
Lord make me, an instrument of peace  
An instrument of peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love  
Where there is darkness, let me sow light  
For in the giving, we shall receive  
And in the dying, we're given life

Lord make me, an instrument of peace  
An instrument of peace  
Lord make me, an instrument of peace  
An instrument of peace

Where There is sorrow, let me sow hope  
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith  
Where there is injury, your pardon give  
Your consolation, to Those in pain

Lord make me, an instrument of peace  
An instrument of peace  
Lord make me, an instrument of peace  
An instrument of peace

A - men, a - men

## Dismissal

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**



## ATTRIBUTIONS

### **Come Thou Fount**

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Tune: NETTLETON

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### **Christ Is Mine Forevermore**

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### **Sanctus**

Words: Traditional

**Cover Image:** Salvador Dali, *Christ of St John of the Cross*, 1951.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Fall Sunday School for Children**

Sunday school continues throughout the month of September. There will also be four weeks of Sunday school during the month of November. Classes are broken into the following age groups:

Age 3 - 1st grade, meeting in the Children's Worship room (Orange room)  
2nd - 4th grade, meeting in the Kindergarten classroom (Logos upstairs)  
5th - 8th grade, meeting in the Encore classroom (Logos upstairs)

### **Adoption Finalization for Bella Stalker on September 30**

The Stalker family will legally adopt their daughter Bella at 10:30 am on Tuesday, September 30! They've invited the congregation to witness the process at the Dauphin County Courthouse at 101 Market Street in Harrisburg. If you plan to attend, please contact Jed or Julianna Stalker to let them know.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

### **Shaffer Retreat Campout, Worship Service and Picnic October 11- 12**

Mark your calendars for this beloved event, taking place the second weekend of October at the church's property at 2011 Fishing Creek Valley Road! More details to follow.

### **New Church Directory**

The church is updating its directory, so please make sure your contact information is current. Even if you haven't moved, you may have a new phone number, email address, or family member. You can update your information by filling out the back page of a church bulletin or by emailing your information to [office@secondcitychurch.org](mailto:office@secondcitychurch.org). If submitting by email, please be sure to include:

- Names of everyone in your family
- Mailing address (including city and ZIP code)
- Phone numbers
- Email addresses

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to  
pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden  
Darwin Leshner  
Virginia Anderson  
Elizabeth James

Nevin White  
Sophia James, USAF  
Eleanor Orner  
Christine Zubrod Perrin

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer  
Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Contact us

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