

# Psalm 99: Worship at God's holy mountain



Psalm 99 (98) (Mode 5. 5...6...1 / 1...6 / 6...5)

Last in series of psalms (93-99) celebrating the kingship of God. The key theme is holiness. The appropriate response to the transcendent God is one of awe.

The Lord is king; let the nations tremble!

The Lord sits enthroned upon the cherubim;

let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion.

‘You are enthroned upon the cherubim’(Psalm 80:1).

‘The Lord of hosts, God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.’

(Isaiah 37:16)

The Lord is great in Zion.

The Lord is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name!

‘Mount Zion, the city of the great King’(Psalm 48:2).

‘It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came’(Ezekiel 36:22).

## *'Holy is the Lord!'*

This refrain is repeated in verses 5 and 9. We recall Jesus' prayer: 'Hallowed be your Name'(Matthew 6:9).

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory'(Isaiah 6:3).

'The Holy God shows himself holy by righteousness.'

(Isaiah 5:16)

'Thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite'(Isaiah 57:15).

‘I will display my greatness and my holiness and make myself known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord’(Ezekiel 38:23).

‘I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath’(Hosea 11:9).

‘Holy and awesome is his name’(Psalm 111:9).

‘Through those who are near me I will show myself holy, and before all the people I will be glorified.’

(Leviticus 10:3)

Mighty King, lover of right judgment,  
you have established equity.

You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

‘God loves justice. You love righteousness and hate  
wickedness’(Psalm 45:7).

‘God establishes a system of justice on the earth.  
Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.  
Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity.’

(Psalm 45:6)

‘God does this through the government of Israel.  
Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king’s son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice’(Psalm 72:1-2).

Exalt the Lord our God.

Bow down before Zion, God's footstool.

*'Holy is the Lord!'*

Moses and Aaron were priests of the Lord.

Samuel was among those who called on the Lord's name.

They cried to the Lord, and were answered.

'You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron'(Psalm 77:20).

'The Lord is king of a priestly people. You shall be for  
me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation'(Exodus 19:6)

This is the only time Samuel is mentioned in the  
Psalter. See Jeremiah 15:1 where he is linked to Moses.



God spoke in the pillar of cloud.

They kept the decrees and statutes,  
given them by the Lord.

Lord our God, you answered them.

For them you were a God who forgives;

Yet you punished all their offences.

‘... keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation’(Exodus 34:7; See Exodus 24:15-18).

Extol the Lord our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain.  
*For the Lord our God is holy.*

As Christians we reflect on the holiness of the  
Most Holy Trinity.

Jesus addresses God as 'Holy Father'(John 17:11).

In the Book of Revelation we hear the hymn: ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come’ (Revelation 4:8).

The song of the crucified and risen Jesus includes the words: ‘You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your judgments have been revealed’(Revelation 15:4).

In a later hymn we hear: ‘You are just, O Holy One, who are and were, for you have judged these things.’

(Revelation 16:5)

Jesus is acknowledged as holy: 'The child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God'(Luke 1:35). Peter says of Jesus: 'We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God'(John 6:69). The Letter to the Hebrews presents Jesus as a high priest who is 'holy'(Hebrews 7:26).

The Spirit of love that is the communion between Jesus and his Father is regularly called the 'Holy Spirit', and the Spirit who makes holy ('sanctifies').

See 1Peter 1:2 and Romans 1:4.

Consequently those who are united to Jesus are drawn into this holiness and are regularly spoken of as holy ('saints').

See John 17:19; Romans 1:7; 1Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:2,12; 1Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 2:21.

In the words of Saint Peter: 'As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'(1Peter 1:15-16).