



**ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH  
PRAYERS AND REFLECTION  
May 20<sup>th</sup> 2026**

We are His People,  
The Sheep of His  
Flock

Psalm 99

**Based on Psalm 99**

***Praise to God for His Holiness***

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!*

*He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!*

*<sup>2</sup> The Lord is great in Zion;*

*he is exalted over all the peoples.*

*<sup>3</sup> Let them praise your great and awesome name.*

*Holy is he!*

*<sup>4</sup> Mighty King, lover of justice,*

*you have established equity;*

*you have executed justice*

*and righteousness in Jacob.*

*<sup>5</sup> Extol the Lord our God;*

*worship at his footstool.*

*Holy is he!*

*<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron were among his priests,*

*Samuel also was among those who called on his name.*

*They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.*

*<sup>7</sup> He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;*

*they kept his decrees*

*and the statutes that he gave them.*

*<sup>8</sup> O Lord our God, you answered them;*

*you were a forgiving God to them*

*but an avenger of their wrongdoings.*

*<sup>9</sup> Extol the Lord our God,*

*and worship at his holy mountain,*

*for the Lord our God is holy.*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, in my quiet time of contemplative reflection and prayer I come into your holy presence, acknowledging that you are sovereign and mighty, and you reign with justice, mercy, and grace. I lift my heart in awe of your holiness, remembering how you answered the cries of your people and led them with

love. This quiet time of worship with you draw me even closer to you. Your breath my breath, quieten my mind and fill my heart and spirit with your peace. Help me to walk humbly in your ways, to seek justice, and to love mercy, becoming more like your light in the world. I trust in your unfailing love, grace and protection as the greatest Shepherd lovingly tendering your flock. Amen.

### **PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS**

- Thank you, Lord, for your great holiness and the privilege of worshipping you.
- Thank you, God, for your fairness toward all people, and for your guidance in my life that keeps me on the straight path
- Thank you for the grace and merciful response to all my failures.

### **PRAYER POINTS OF PRAISE**

- praise and honour for you Jesus and the authority you have over the earth, seas, and sky – heaven and earth.
- praise the Lord for miracles and wonders through life, for your power empowering activities in my life.
- praise the Holy Spirit as we journey together in worship, for the Spirit's love for me and continual faithfulness throughout all generations now and in the future.

### **PRAYER POINTS FOR CONFESSION**

- I confess Lord, I have strayed from God's paths, I seek your strength in my efforts to change
- I confess my moments I have dropped my guard and lost my way, I pray for a renewal of my faith and trust in the sovereignty of God.
- Help me to recognise when I have treated worship of you with less than you deserve – I pray that I will commit myself to place you at the top of my priority list.

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

Lord, I have placed the worst of my thoughts and actions into your hands of love, mercy and grace. You have promised to cleanse me when I confess my sins. I do now so confess and rest peacefully in the cleansing palm of your hand. Thanks be to God amen.

### **REFLECTION**

Psalm 99 unquestionably affirms God's sovereignty and God's role as a shepherd to God's people, intertwining thoughts of God's authority with compassionate guidance. At the centre of the psalm, we see the majesty of God as King, reigning over all the earth with holiness and justice. It opens with the proclamation, *'The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!'* the opening leaves us in no doubt of God's sovereignty reigning over all the earth with holiness and justice. It's impossible to miss the point that through the psalm we get to reaffirm God's power and are invited into worship with God recognising God's authority and placing our trust in God.

The sovereignty of God is a source of comfort. In a world often marked by chaos and uncertainty, Psalm 99 reassures us of continual close presence who is actively involved in our lives and creation. As we reflect on the greatness of God, we also become increasingly aware that we can see God's heart as a shepherd. The psalm speaks loudly of God speaking and acting on behalf of God's people, offering guidance and protection. Like a shepherd who leads his flock to safety, God leads us amidst our trials and challenges of life.

The psalm also touches on the importance of holiness. The majesty of God is linked with righteousness, reminding us that God's rule is grounded in justice and truth. As God shepherds us, God's calling us to live according to the Mosaic Laws and warnings of the Prophets which will guide us towards living a life close in character to God, Christ and Spirit. In the same way that God answered the prayers of the people of the past, we are encouraged to approach God with reverence and trust, knowing that God hears our prayers and responds.

In the verses that recall the historical faithfulness of God, we too are reminded that God's sovereignty isn't abstract but founded in God's loving actions. God forgives our wrongs while still upholding the holiness due to God. This balance affirms that while God rules with authority, God also desires for us, to experience God's mercy and grace.

Overall, psalm 99 inspires us to embrace the duality we find in God's role as sovereign ruler and attentive shepherd, nurturing both awe and intimacy in our relationship with God. In acknowledging the power of God's loving presence and guidance, we can find peace and security, trusting that we are cared for by the One who reigns over us all.

## PRAYER OF INTECESSION

Lord, I worship you in humble reverence acknowledging your sovereignty and holiness. As I intercede in my world, I ask that your kingdom come and your will be done. Lord, I pray for those in positions of authority, that they may lead with justice and integrity, reflecting your sense of what's right. May their hearts be guided by godly wisdom, and may they seek to protect the vulnerable in my community as a true shepherd.

I lift up those who are suffering, marginalised, or in distress living with illness, or in the grip of grief. May they encounter your presence, finding comfort and strength in your loving arms. As the Great Shepherd, lead them to peace and restoration. I ask for your mercy to be poured out upon our communities and nations, healing divisions and growing in unity as the body of Christ.

Spirit of God, I confess my own shortcomings and the ways I may have strayed from your paths. Help all of us to be more like a reflection of your love and grace, being instruments of reconciliation in a broken world. Teach me to continue to worship you in spirit and truth, acknowledging your greatness and majesty in all aspects of our lives.

Jesus, I resoundly trust in your faithfulness, knowing that you hear my prayers.

Equip each of us to stand firm in our faith, encouraging one another in our walk with you. May I boldly proclaim the everlasting hope I have in you, drawing others into your light.

In the name of Jesus, my Shepherd and King, I pray.  
Amen

