

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 19, 2023  
BULLETIN ISSUE #47



## SERMON OUTLINE

### OUR HOLY GOD

PSALM 99  
ELDER RAYMUND SANCHEZ

The foundation of all religion is laid in this truth, *the Lord reigns*. God governs the world by His providence, governs the church by His grace, and both by His Son. We are to believe not only that *the Lord lives*, but that *the Lord reigns*. This is the triumph of the Christian church that Jehovah was their King.

Like all Hebrew poetry, Psalm 99 is very carefully constructed, because, of course, the King of all the earth deserves our very best. While many contemporary Christians value spontaneity and informality in worship, the ancient people of God were thoughtful and deliberate in their praise. So, according to some scholars, this psalm is composed of 4 stanzas of 3 lines each in the Hebrew. It deliberately uses the

Hebrew number of perfection and completeness, the number 7, mentioning the Lord seven times and using 7 pronouns to refer to that Lord.

And most significantly, it repeats a refrain three times (verses 3, 5, 9), emphasizing the theme of the psalm. This Lord is "holy." As in Isaiah 6, the Lord who reveals His glory on the holy mountain is thrice holy. This theme helps us to praise God for His multifaceted holiness. Picking up on the original sense of holiness, Psalm 99 focuses on ways in which Yahweh is completely different from anything in all creation, especially other lords and kings and gods.

We are called to praise the Lord for his universal, worldwide reign. "We" is deliberate because the psalmist calls "all the nations," not just Israel, to "tremble," and all the "earth," not just the Promised Land, to "shake" before the Lord. The God who sits enthroned above the cherubim, that is, above the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple located in Zion (Jerusalem), is exalted over all the

nations. Though Yahweh has chosen to dwell in that place among those people in a special way, Yahweh is not a local deity, a national God who reigns over just one people in only one geographical area, like the gods of the nations. Yahweh is holy in that He reigns over all people, whether they acknowledge Him or not. Israel does not reign over all the earth, but Israel's God does. So "let them (everyone on earth) praise Your great and awesome name – He is holy."

In verses 4-5, we are called to praise the Holy Lord, because of His justice. Not only is Israel's God all powerful, but He is also completely just, unlike the other kings and lords and gods of the surrounding nations. Indeed, He "loves" justice; He has "established equity;" He always does "what is just and right." Verses 6-9 are the climax of the psalm. Verse 9 increases the volume of this call to praise by reminding us a third time that "the Lord our God is holy."

Together, therefore, let us worship and exalt our holy God! ✠

## 12 BASKETS OF CHRISTMAS

REV. MARK MAGANGAT

I believe you will agree with me that the best way to approach the end of the year is to "give thanks to the Lord!" We should express gratitude to God for all the ups and downs in our lives, for the joys and sorrows, and for everything in between. Whether you're in your 20s, early 30s, mid or late 30s, or whatever your age, it is always beneficial to pause and reflect on the things for which you are thankful to God. We should give thanks to the Lord for who He is to us. What better way to express our thanksgiving to God than through our 12 Baskets of Christmas offerings?

Every December, we have a special time to give back to the Lord through our 12 Baskets of Christmas offerings. This is our way of honoring Jesus as we commemorate His birth and express gratitude for all He has done for us, especially in the past year. As we look forward to this event (which has become a GCFSM tradition), let us pray about how much we can give, seeking God's guidance on honoring Him through our generosity.

On December 3, during our worship celebration, there will be 12 baskets, one for each month. Each basket is labeled with a

month representing the twelve months of the year. When it is time to give, drop your special offering into the basket that matches your birth month. For example, if you were born in January, your offering goes into the January basket. If your birthday is in February, find the basket labeled February, and so on.

If you forget to bring your offering on the day, no worries. Offering envelopes and pledge forms will be available at the entrance of the Worship Hall. If you cannot be with us in person, you can make a bank transfer. However, we highly encourage everyone to join us at GCF South Metro for corporate worship.

Allow me to give you four reasons we can give thanks to the Lord:

1. Give thanks to the Lord for His **Person**. We are to make sure that we are focused on the person of God. If we are to do something significant, it has to always be focused on who God is. Because if we lose focus on God, what we do will not be more significant. The best way to begin giving thanks to God is in the person of God.

2. Give thanks to the Lord for His **Presence**.

God is with us. We can be strong and brave because we know who is on our side. Every time there is pain, God is with us. Every time there is pressure, God is with us. God is with us in the middle of the pain, in the middle of the problem, and even in the middle of the pressure. He will see us through.

3. Give thanks to the Lord for His **Protection**.

God is not merely a God who says, "I can guide you"; He also declares, "I can guard you." Therefore, we place our trust in God's protection, especially during days of danger. Protection is the manifestation of God's presence in the midst of our problems.

4. Give thanks to the Lord for His **Power**.

The power of God is not merely an abstract force but a dynamic, omnipresent strength that actively operates in our lives. This power sustains us through challenges, offering resilience and guidance.

As we prepare to give back to the Lord through our 12 Baskets of Christmas offering, let us focus on giving thanks to Him for who He is to us and for what He has done in our lives. ✠

## PARSON TO PERSON

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Let us continue to be found faithful in our giving.  
You may deposit your giving to:

ACCOUNT NAME:  
GCF South Metro, Inc.

BDO  
BRANCH: MADISON

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00650-802-2882

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BRANCH: LAS PIÑAS, DAANG HARI

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BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Current Acct. No:  
0000-0063-65400

CHINABANK  
BRANCH: AYALA ALABANG

Current Acct. No:  
128-195-0910

BPI  
BRANCH: ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Current Acct. No:  
1591-0091-56

SECURITY BANK  
DOLLAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BRANCH: ALABANG ACACIA

Dollar Account Number:

0000013183012

Swift Code:

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Bank Code:

CHIPS UID 010457