Psalm 99

Adonai rules, peoples tremble;
Adonai in Zion is great,
high is God over all the peoples.
Let them praise Your Name,
great and awesome, holy it is,
and the power of the Ruler who loves justice.
You have established uprightness.
Justly and righteously
with Ya’akov You Yourself have dealt.

Psalm 99 continues the theme of God’s majesty,
ruled the world in justice and righteousness from
on high. God is above the winged cherubim
(angels) atop the Aron (Ark) housing the Two
Tablets of the Law that the Jewish people carried
through the desert and into the Promised Land.
(See Exodus 25:18-22.)

God was faithful and forgiving to our ancestors
Moses, Aaron, and Samuel, and answered their
prayers because they kept the laws that God gave
them. We ask that God show us the same
compassion, for we too sense God’s holiness
when we sing God’s praises.

Exalt Adonai our God, bow down
at the footstool of God’s feet; holy is God.
Moses and Aaron among God’s priests,
and Samuel among those who call out The Name,
call out to Adonai, and You, God, answer them.
In a pillar of cloud, You, God, speak to them.
They kept Your testimonies, the law You gave them.
Adonai our God, You Yourself answered them.
You were a forgiving God for them,
but a punisher of their misdeeds. 1

1 Moses and Aaron were punished for their role
in the incident of the waters of Merivah
(Numbers 20:1-14); they were forbidden to
to enter the Land of Israel. Samuel was
punished for not bringing up his sons in the
proper way. Some interpret, with regard to
Moses and Aaron, that God punished their
opponents as in the incident with Korach and
his followers.