



raise the Lord, all nations! Extol him,  
all peoples! For great is his steadfast love  
toward us, and the faithfulness of the  
Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

(PSALM 117:1-2)

## STRUCTURE

- v.1** Call for the Gentiles to join Israel's praise of the Lord.
- v.2** Confession of the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness.

## AT A GLANCE

### DID YOU KNOW?

This is the shortest psalm in the psalter.

### THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR

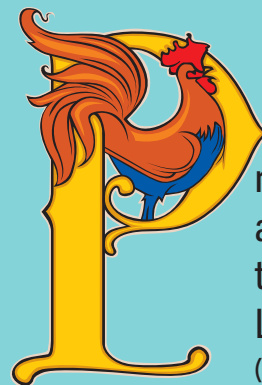
Paul cites this psalm in Romans 15:11.

### MORE TO THE STORY

Both "the nations" and "we" are found praising the Lord in this psalm. This finds its ultimate meaning in Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11.

## CHRIST IS HERE

Though brief, this psalm teaches us that both Gentiles and Jews should shout "Hallelujah" in praise of the never-ending, steadfast love that is found only in Christ.



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**Shakespeare said that “brevity is the soul of wit,”** and in this psalm, brevity is no obstacle to sound doctrine in rich measure. With only seventeen words in Hebrew, all nations (not only Israel) and all peoples (not only Judah) are commanded to praise the Lord. St. Paul quotes this passage to the Romans as a way of demonstrating that not only ethnic Jews will be saved: the blood of Christ covers all mankind and His salvation is offered freely to all. As Simeon also sang in praise of the infant Christ, He is “a light to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel” (LUKE 2:32). So also it should not go unnoticed that the divine name, “the LORD,” is repeated three times — a simple poetic move which, in the light of Christ, becomes a beautiful confession of the Trinity. Why should this Lord receive such praise? He alone is characterized by steadfast love (sometimes translated “mercy” or “lovingkindness”) and faithfulness (sometimes translated “truth”). The glory of this Name and character passed before Moses on the mountain (EX. 34:6). In Christ Jesus, the world beholds this Lord face to face, and all are invited to call upon His name and be saved (ROM. 10:13).



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## USE IN THE CHURCH

**Antiphon:** v. 1a

**In the Daily Office:** Mondays at Vespers

**At the Divine Service:**

Historic Tract at Easter and Pentecost Vigils (v. 1–2a)

**One-Year:**

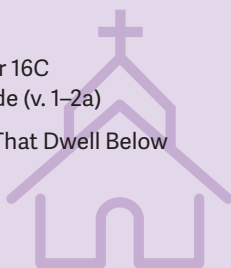
Verse for Trinity 18 (v. 1)

**Three-Year:**

Introit verses for Proper 16C

Gradual for Epiphanytide (v. 1–2a)

**Hymn:** LSB 816, “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”



## SPIRITUAL CARE

- Before catechesis.
- Before an election.
- On national holidays.
- Against false worship.
- Before worship.



## PSALM

117

## PSALM PRAYER

Almighty King, You are praised by people of all nations. Strengthen our souls with Your truth and assure us of Your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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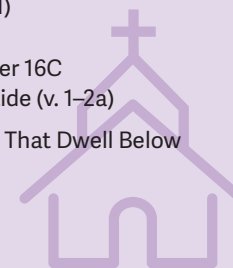
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