

Psalm 117

9th Sunday Year C; 21st Sunday Year C

Morning Prayer Saturday Weeks 1&3

Evening Prayer 1 Christ-King, Transfiguration & Apostles

This is the shortest of the psalms. It calls upon all nations to praise YHWH for the way he has treated Israel.

Sing to YHWH; praise YHWH! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

– Jeremiah 20:13

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For YHWH has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

– Isaiah 49:13

Paul includes this psalm among the quotations he uses to indicate God's will to reach out to the Gentiles. He speaks of God's faithfulness to Israel in keeping his promises, and God's steadfast love in reaching out to save all nations.

Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the faithfulness of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name' (Psalm 18:50); and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people' (Deuteronomy 32:43 LXX); and again, 'Praise YHWH, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him' (Psalm 117:1); and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope' (Isaiah 11:10).

– Romans 15:8-12

The final cry of Psalm 117 is also the final cry of Psalm 113, Psalm 115 and Psalm 116.

¹Praise YHWH*, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!

²For great is his kindness* toward us; the faithfulness of YHWH endures forever.

Praise YH! [Hal'êlû Yâ]