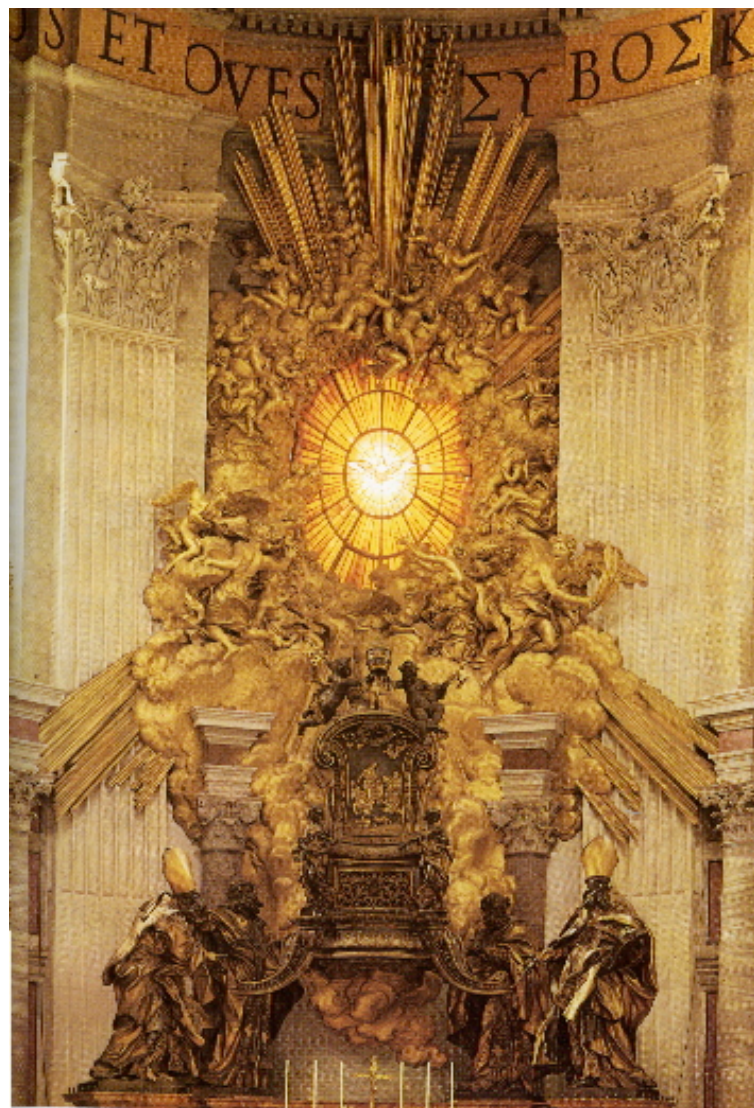


Psalm 117: Praise the Lord, all you nations



Psalm 117 (116) (Mode 1. 5....65 / 3.....23)

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

Praise the Lord, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

Great is the love of the Lord for us.

The Lord is for ever faithful.

‘Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! 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 the Lord 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.

Romans 15:8-12

‘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 118:50); and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’(Deuteronomy 32:43); and again, ‘**Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol our God, all you peoples**’(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).’