

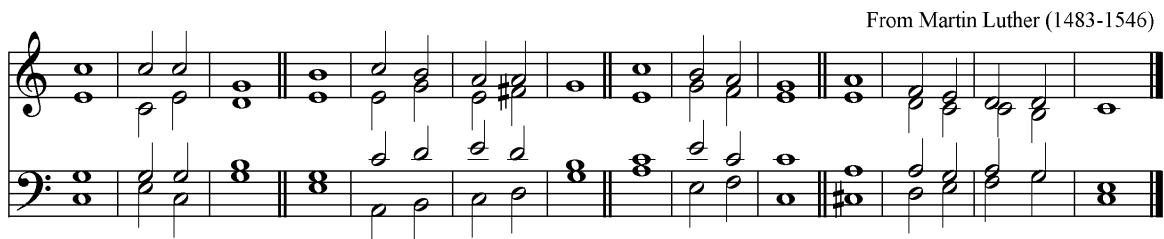
## Psalm 117 *Laudate Dominum*

This psalm is special all on its own — it's the shortest of all the psalms, the shortest chapter in the entire Bible, and is the middle chapter of the Bible.

Psalm 117 actually begins in Psalm 113. It is part of a six-psalm method of praise to God called the Egyptian Hallel or just Hallel ("hallel" means praise in Hebrew). Psalms 113–118 are recited *verbatim* by observant Jews on all Jewish holidays involving communal salvation, most especially Passover.

Traditionally, the Hallel (from the familiar word "hallelujah" meaning "thank God") is sung before and after the Passover meal. So, it's quite likely Jesus and the disciples sang this song in the upper room on the night Jesus was arrested.

In the Christian tradition, Psalm 117 is often used between the scripture readings at the Eucharist.



**O | praise the Lord | all you | nations:**

**O | praise him | all you | peoples.**

**For great is his steadfast | love to | wards us:**

**and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.**

**| Alle | lu - | ia.**