## **Light of Every Nation**

TUNE: Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow (alt.)

Psalm 72; Isaiah 42:5-7; 49:5-13; 60:1-3; Amos 5:24;

Matthew 2:1 11: Philippians 2:0 11



TOPICS: Christmas; Epiphany; Justice; Missions & Evangelism

LEAD-IN: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Nations will come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

(Isaiah 60:1, 3, NIV)

## LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## The Light of the World

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
(Luke 2:22, 25-32, NIV)

Jesus is not just the central figure of Christianity.

He is the central figure of all history,
of earth and heaven.

He is the Creator, the Sustainer of all that is,
seen and unseen,
the Sovereign Word of the Sovereign God.

He is not just the wisest person who ever lived.

In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
He is not just the leader of one group, culture, or movement.
He is the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords.

## Isaiah said:

"See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you." (Isaiah 60:2, NIV) Jesus is the Light of the World, and as He is lifted up, all nations, all peoples will come to Him.

Consider this:

We know what the holy and wise of all ages
have longed to discover.

We see Jesus Christ.

How very blessed we are!

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