



## Season of Light

Hymn: "As With Gladness Men of Old," LSB 397, LW 75

In this hymn, we sing in the first verse, "As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold. As with joy they hailed its **light**, leading onward beaming bright." This is the star that led the wise men from the East to look for the one who was born King of the Jews. In Matthew 2:2b we read: *For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.*

According to *Funk & Wagnall's New International Dictionary* the word "Epiphany" means "a festival, observed on January 6, commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi." We know that the wise men followed a star for as long as two years from the time they first saw it in the east, a bright **light** that God had provided to guide them, which led them to our Savior and King.

I recall driving in the mountains when the fog rolled in. Nothing could be seen except for the tail **lights** of the car ahead of me. I knew God would guide me and when I reached the top of the peak, the **light** came out shining brightly. There was beauty around me that, until now, I had not been able to see.

We are told that the Magi were Gentiles traveling a great distance to find this young child who would ultimately become the Savior of the world through His death and resurrection. Christ wants all to know Him and will let nothing stand in His way of drawing people to Him. Those who are drawn to Him learn that Christ is that **Light** that does not go dim but continues to shine brightly. *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world* (John 1:9).

The wise men offered treasures from their own countries that provided foresight into this blessed Babe's future: gold, a gift for a king, paying tribute to the Son of the Most Powerful; frankincense, symbolic of prayers of petition and thanks rising to God, as well as Jesus' stature as a spiritual leader and teacher; and myrrh for a Man who would give His life for the benefit of others, for myrrh was used in embalming dead bodies. Only the finest and best would be good enough for this Child who was born King of the Jews, True God and True Man, the **Light** of this world.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Son into the world as both True Man and True God. Please open our eyes to see that **Light** of Jesus and continue to seek to know Him and serve Him. Help us to keep Epiphany foremost in our hearts and minds so that others will see this **Light** and come to know Jesus as their Savior. In Your Son's most precious name we pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

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