

# Hymn of the Week

December 24, 25, 2018 • Christmas Eve/Day

## The People Who in Darkness Walked

**Text:** Isaiah 9:2, 6–7; vers. David W. Music, 1998.

**Music:** BEREDAN VÄG FÖR HERRAN: Swedish melody, 17<sup>th</sup> cent. ;  
harm. David W. Music, 1998

I have long loved the sprightly tune BEREDAN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, as well as the Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 9, which is familiar to musicians mainly through Handel's *Messiah*. I think this paraphrase began when I noticed that the first two phrases of what would become the refrain fit into an 87 87 hymnic meter, which happens also to be the hymnic meter for BEREDAN VÄG FÖR HERRAN. I wasn't familiar with any versifications of this section of Isaiah (which is not to say there weren't any) and thought it was such a significant passage that congregations deserved to sing it too! The rhymes are rather looser than I usually prefer but seemed to fit in this particular instance.

–David W. Music

**Topics:** Biblical Names (David), Christmas, Incarnation, Peace (world)

**Scriptural reference:** Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

### Publications

*Celebrating Grace* (2010)

*Selah Songs of Rejoicing* (Selah, 2011)



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# The People Who in Darkness Walked

1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a great light  
 2 His name will be called Coun - se - lor, the ev - er - last - ing  
 3 This child will reign on Da - vid's throne and o - ver Da - vid's

shin - ing, and those who in the shad - ows live have  
 Fa - ther, the Might - y God, the Prince of Peace whose  
 king - dom with jus - tice and with righ - teous-ness, with

seen the new day's dawn - ing:  
 reign will be for - ev - er: For un - to us a child is born, to  
 God's e - ter - nal wis - dom:

us a son is giv - en, and on his shoul - ders

he shall bring to earth the peace of heav - en.