



# SANTA LUCIA PAGEANT

**DECEMBER 8, 2024**

Mindekirken

*The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church*

**Santa Lucia** was a fourth century Christian martyr from Syracuse in present-day Italy. Lucia's story juxtaposes well against many seasonal themes. Her Feast Day (December 13) in the Catholic tradition was the day of the winter solstice during the Middle Ages, which helps explain how she became associated with candles - bringing light into the darkness, both literally and metaphorically, on the shortest day of the year. December 13 is also during the season of Advent in the Christian church year. Lucia's light is thus representative of the light of God and the coming birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. Our pageant today blends the story of Lucia with the story of Christmas.

Today's pageant is similar to what is performed in on December 13 in Norway and Sweden. While it is not fully understood how the veneration of Lucia - an Italian saint - became so prominent in Sweden and neighboring Nordic countries, it is a beautiful tradition that now goes back hundreds of years. We hope you find this a meaningful part of your own celebration, devotion and reflection this Advent season.

## **Procession**

*Sancta Lucia*

## **Part 1: God**

### **Bible Reading**

I begynnelsen var Ordet (Johannes 1,1-9)

### **Choir**

*Deilig er Jorden*

### **Santa Lucia Reading: Part 1**

### **Interlude**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  
Christine Randen & Annelise Pratt, violin

## **Part 2: A Woman**

### **Bible Reading**

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-56)

### **Choir**

*Maria var ei møy så ren*

### **Santa Lucia Reading: Part 2**

### **Part 3: A Gift**

**Bible Reading**

The Angels visit the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)

**Choir**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

**Santa Lucia Reading: Part 3**

**Choir**

*Nå er den hellige timer*

**Choir**

*Staffansvise*

**Interlude**

*Bryllupsdag på Trolldhaugen* by Edvard Grieg  
Annelise Pratt, piano

### **Part 4: A Light**

**Bible Reading**

Simeons lovsang (Lukas 2:29-32)

**Santa Lucia Reading: Part 4**

**Choir**

*Nå tennes tusen julelys*

**Choir**

*Jeg er så glad*

**Recession**

*Santa Lucia*

## Texts

### Santa Lucia

Svart senker natten seg  
I stall og stuer.  
Solen har gått sin vei,  
skyggene truer

Inn i vårt mørke hus  
Stiger med tente lys  
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia

### Santa Lucia

Night is falling darkly  
In stables and 'round hearths  
The sun has gone its way,  
The shadows are looming.

Into our dark house  
Enter with candles aglow,  
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia

*Most people probably think of Italy and gondolas when they hear the Santa Lucia song, sung, perhaps, with the voice of a great Italian tenor like Pavarotti or Caruso. It is a traditional Neapolitan song, originally sung in the Neapolitan language: a hymn to Saint Lucy, as well as an ode to Naples, with maritime imagery. In the Norwegian version, the song takes a distinctly rural Scandinavian character, where the winter darkness casts fearsome shadows in the stalls and rooms until a light rises up in the house: Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*

### I begynnelsen var Ordet Johannes 1, 1-9

I begynnelsen var Ordet.  
Ordet var hos Gud, og Ordet var Gud.  
Han var i begynnelsen hos Gud.

Alt er blitt til ved ham, uten ham er ikke noe blitt til. I ham var liv, og livet var menneskenes lys.

Lyset skinner i mørket, og mørket har ikke overvunnet det.

Et menneske sto fram, utsendt av Gud.  
Johannes var hans navn.

Han kom for å vitne. Han skulle vitne om lyset, så alle skulle komme til tro ved ham. Selv var han ikke lyset, men han skulle vitne om lyset. Det sanne lys, som lyser for hvert menneske, kom nå til verden.

### The Word Became Flesh John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## Deilig er jorden

Deilig er Jorden!  
Prektig er Guds Himmel!  
Skjønn er Sjelenes Pilgrimsgang!  
Gjennom de fagre,  
Riker på Jorden  
Går vi til Paradis med Sang!

Tider skal komme,  
Tider skal henrulle,  
Slekt skal følge Slekters Gang —  
Aldri forstummer  
Tonen fra Himlen,  
I sjelens glade Pilgrimssang!

Englene sang den  
Først for Markens Hyrder;  
Skjønt fra Sjel til Sjel det lød:  
Fred over Jorden!  
Menneske! fryd Deg!  
Oss er en evig Frelser født

## Deilig er jorden

Beauty around us,  
glory above us,  
lovely is earth and the smiling skies.  
Singing we pass along  
pilgrims upon our way.

Through these fair lands Paradise.  
Ages are coming,  
roll on and vanish.  
Children shall follow where fathers passed.  
Never our pilgrim song,  
joyful and heavenborn,  
shall cease while time and mountain last.

The angels sang it  
first to the shepherds of the field,  
though from soul to soul it sounded:  
Peace over the earth!  
Humans rejoice.  
To us is an eternal savior born!

*The text for Deilig er Jorden was written by Danish novelist and poet Bernhard Severin Ingemann and first published in 1842. Although the words are not explicitly about Christmas, the hymn has become one of the most popular Christmas carols in Norway. The melody is originally Silesian in origin. In America we know this melody as the hymn Beautiful Savior. The English text came from a translation of a different German hymn that used the same tune, but it became embedded in Norwegian-American hearts through the choral arrangement by F. Melius Christiansen, the legendary director of the St. Olaf Choir in the first half of the 20th Century.*

## Marias lovsang    Lukas 1,46-56

«Min sjel opphøyer Herren, og min ånd fryder seg i Gud, min frelser. For han har sett til sin tjenestekvinne i hennes fattigdom. Og se, fra nå av skal alle slekter prise meg salig, for store ting har han gjort mot meg, han, den mektige; hellig er hans navn. Fra slekt til slekt varer hans miskunn over dem som frykter ham. Han gjorde storverk med sin sterke arm; han spredte dem som bar hovmodstanker i hjertet. Han støtte

## The Magnificat    Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the

herskere ned fra tronen og løftet opp de lave. Han mettet de sultne med gode gaver, men sendte de rike tomhendte fra seg. Han tok seg av Israel, sin tjener, og husket på sin miskunn slik han lovet våre fedre, Abraham og hans ætt, til evig tid.»Maria ble hos Elisabet i omkring tre måneder. Så vendte hun hjem.

### **Maria var ei møy så ren**

Maria var ei møy så ren, Kyrie eleison!  
Maria trådte på torn og sten,  
Der hun vandret trett imot Betlehem.  
Jesus og Maria.

Hva var Marias smerte og trang?  
Kyrie eleison!  
Hva fylte smerten med himmelsk sang?  
Det var verdens frelser hun bar i fang.  
Jesus og Maria.

En engel til Maria kom. Kyrie eleison!  
Hun tvilte ei i sin tro så  
fram på Herrens bud i helligdom.  
Jesus og Maria.

Da tornen ble en lilje blid, Kyrie eleison!  
Og Marias vandring en himmelsk sti  
Med Jesus barnet til frelse rik.  
Jesus og Maria.

lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

### **Mary was a maid so pure**

Mary was a maid so pure, Kyrie eleison  
Mary walked over thorns and stones  
when she wandered toward Bethlehem  
Jesus and Mary

What was Mary's pain and urgency?  
Kyrie eleison.  
What filled her pain with heavenly song?  
It was the world's saviour whom she carried  
in her lap, Jesus og Maria.

An angel came to Mary, Kyrie eleison.  
She never doubted her faith  
since the Lord's word from the heavens  
Jesus og Maria.  
Then the thorn became a lily, Kyrie eleison.  
And Mary's wandering a heavenly path  
with Baby Jesus to salvation's realm  
Jesus og Maria.

*Maria's song (also known as Gammel Maria-vise) is German in origin, possibly dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. It is known in English as Maria Walks Amid the Thorns. The song was originally a hymn for pilgrimages but became associated with Advent by the German Youth Movement in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The text was translated into Norwegian and published by Thomas Beck in 1958. Beck's version is explicitly an Advent carol, teaching about Maria's journey as a young girl, from her encounter with an angel to the path where she steps on thorns and stones (both literal and figurative) on her way to Bethlehem.*

## Englene besøker gjeterne

Lukas 2, 8-14

Det var noen gjeterne der i nærheten som var ute på marken og holdt nattevakt over flokken sin. Med ett sto en Herrens engel foran dem, og Herrens herlighet lyste om dem. De ble overveldet av redsel.

Men engelen sa til dem: «Frykt ikke! Se, jeg forkynner dere en stor glede, en glede for hele folket: I dag er det født dere en frelser i Davids by; han er Messias, Herren. Og dette skal dere ha til tegn: Dere skal finne et barn som er svøpt og ligger i en krybbe.»

Med ett var engelen omgitt av en himmelsk hærs-kare, som lovpriste Gud og sang: «Ære være Gud i det høyeste, og fred på jorden blant mennesker Gud har glede i!»

## In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone:  
snow had fallen,  
snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

*The text of In the Bleak Midwinter was written by English author Christina Rossetti and first published in 1872. Composer Gustav Holst famously composed the music setting in 1906. This is our only English song in the Lucia pageant. The carol is loved by the children and known to be frequently sung at home even by the smallest children. In our preparations, the choir is taught to focus on musical concepts during the first two choral verses, but on the last verse are asked to think about the words, which are written in the first person and focus on our own response to the baby Jesus with the question, "What can I give him" (emphasis added).*

## The Angels Visit the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him,  
give my heart.

## Nå er den helige time

Nå er den hellige time  
Vi står i stjerneskin  
Og hører klokkene kime.  
Nå ringes julen inn.

Englene synger høyt i kor  
Synger om fred på vår jord.  
Verden var aldri helt forlatt.  
En stjerne skinner i natt!

En nyfødt kjærlighet sover.  
Nå er Guds himmel nær.  
Vår lange vandring er over;  
Stjernen har stanset her.

Se, himlen ligger og hviler  
På jordens gule strå  
Vi står rundt krybben og smiler,  
For vi er fremme nå

## This is the holiest hour

This is the holiest hour  
Heaven is now in sight  
Listen to bells that are chiming  
Christmas has come tonight

Sweet are the voices high above  
Singing of peace and of love  
All of the world is filled with light  
A star is shining tonight

A newborn baby is sleeping  
Heaven is near, this night  
The Lord has sent us to see Him  
Under the star, so bright

Quietly resting among us  
On Bethlehem's golden straw  
Night's given way, as we're standing  
Watching this child with awe

*In our pageant, Nå er den hellige time is given to our Lucia to sing as a solo. During the chorus, the Lucia choir uses hand motions to better express the words and meaning. You will see hand motions expressing words like "englene" (the angels), "jord" (world) and "fred" (peace). It is the youngest song in our pageant, having been written in 1992. It follows a recent tradition in hymn writing of incorporating rhythms and melodies inspired by more modern popular music. The song is completely Norwegian. The text was written by Eyvind Skeie, a well-known Norwegian pastor and writer. The music writer was Tore Aas, who is the founder and director of the Oslo Gospel Chorus.*

## Staffansvise

Staffan var en stalladreng.  
Vi takker nå så gjerne.  
Han vannet sine foler fem.  
Alt før den lyse stjernen.  
Ingen dager synes enn,  
Stjernerne på himmelen, de blinker.

Hastig legges salen på  
Innen solen mon oppgå...

## Staffan was a stable boy

Staffan was a stable boy,  
We are so thankful  
He watered his five ponies  
All under the bright star  
Without any daylight  
The stars in the sky, are shining

He quickly lays the saddle on...  
Before the sun, the moon goes up...



Beste folen apalgrå  
Den rider Staffan selv oppå

The best pony, apple grey...  
Staffan himself rode out upon...

Gamle bjørnen i sitt bo  
Ei får være ut i ro

The old bear in his den...  
Doesn't get to be in peace...

*Staffansvisen (also known as Staffan var en Stalledreng) is a well-loved part of the Swedish Lucia song tradition. It is the one song that the star boys get to shine on themselves. With this song, our Lucia choir members are truly participating in a tradition that goes back many hundreds of years, in which the boys sing the verses and everyone joins on the chorus. While on the surface it seems like a silly song, it is actually another perspective on the Christian story. Staffan is St. Stephen, who, according to tradition, worked in Herod's stables and is considered the first Christian martyr. The song comes to us from the middle ages and was traditionally sung as part of the Feast of St. Stephen, on December 26. The text is not necessarily instructional, as far as any devotional reflection on the Christmas story, but more of a picture of what Staffan might have been doing and experiencing the night he saw the Christmas star while also projecting symbolism of the story of St. Stephen and his martyrdom.*

### **Simeons lovsang    Lukas 2,29-32**

«Herre, nå lar du din tjener fare herfra i fred,  
slik som du har lovet.

For mine øyne har sett din frelse,  
som du har gjort i stand like for ansiktet på  
alle folk, et lys til åpenbaring for hedningene  
og ditt folk Israel til ære.»

### **The Song of Simeon    Luke 2:29-32**

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant  
in peace, according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of  
all peoples, a light for revelation to the  
Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

## **Nå tennes tusen julelys**

Nå tennes tusen julelys  
Det stråler rundt vår jord,  
Og himlens stjerner blinker ned,  
Til liten og til stor.

Og over land og by i kveld  
går julens glade bud,  
om han som fødtes i en stall,  
vår Frelser og vår God.

Du stjerne over Betlehem,  
send dine stråler ned,  
Og minn oss om at julens bud,  
er kjærlighet og fred.

Til hvert et fattig hjerte send  
et lystreif ifra sky,  
Så finner det den rette vei,  
og det blir jul pa ny.

*Na tenner tusen julelys was written in 1898 by Swedish author and hymnwriter Emmy Köhler, who wrote both the text and the melody. This has become a popular Christmas song in all of Scandinavia, in the respective languages, with many recording artists also singing it. Its simplicity lends itself perfectly as a children's song, but not so childish that adults can't also find it a wonderful portrait of the stars sending us a message of God's love and peace.*

## **Jeg er så glad hver Julekveld**

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld,  
for da ble Jesus født,  
da lyste stjernen som en sol,  
og engler sang så søtt.

*There is no more loved song in the Norwegian and Norwegian-American Christmas tradition than Jeg er så glad. It has been passed down by generations of Norwegian-Americans, falling in the same category of distinctly Norwegian traditions as lefse. We include it in our pageant as an essential song for these children to learn, as well as a fun ending to our program. The text was written by Norwegian author Marie Wexelsen and the music by Peder Knudsen. While the first few verses are sung most often, it is worthwhile to read all of the verses. The fifth verse begins to reflect on the role of the mother in the home, teaching not about the theology of Christmas but about what happens in the home as the family gathers on Christmas Eve. Our setting today includes an arrangement by Erik Pratt in a Norwegian folk singing style.*

## **Now a thousand Christmas lights are lit**

Now a thousand Christmas lights are lit  
On the Earth's dark orbit  
And a thousand, thousand beams, too  
In the sky's deep-blue scene

And all over far and wide tonight  
Go happy tidings of Christmas  
That the Lord Jesus Christ is born  
Our Savior and God

You, star over Bethlehem  
Oh, let Your gentle light  
Shine on with hope and peace  
In every house and home

To each poor heart send  
a ray of light from the sky,  
so it finds the right path  
and it becomes Christmas again

## **I am so glad each Christmas Eve**

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
The night of Jesus' birth.  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
And angels sang on earth.

## 2024 Lucia Choir

Sisu Alter (Lucia) a b

Valerie Allen b	Solveig Jensen a b	Kaia Velo b
Talula Alter a b	Evie Jones a b	Rose Watkins c
Malcolm Bernardi a	Asaph Kasten b	Greta Watkins c
Sigrid Conrad a	Cedar Kasten b	Clara Williams
Hedda Conrad a	Emma Kuether b	Louisa Zobel b
Amelia Dean b	Filip Moe a b	Martin Zobel b
Monika Dean b	Annelise Pratt b e	
Mia Delmonico b d	Christine Randen b	Charlotte Stevenson (Lucia
Lucia Delmonico d	Freya Sanders-Moen b e	Readings) a b
Solveig Hanson	Clara Stoehr	

## About Our 2024 Lucia, Sisu Alter

I was born in India and have lived in California, New York, and Connecticut. I moved to Minnesota this summer to be closer to my family, and I couldn't be happier. I have fond memories of my grandparents bringing me to Sunday school at Mindekirken. My favorite subjects in school are math and Chinese. I am so honored to be a part of the Santa Lucia celebration to explore my Norwegian heritage.

Erik Pratt, Director d

Krista Schweppe, Coordinator d  
Rebecca Randen, Coordinator d  
Wendy Austin, Costuming  
Maggie Burr, Office Support d

Hui Chen, Piano  
Pr. Gunnar Kristiansen, Guitar  
Lynnelle Pratt, Violin d  
Rachel Jensen, Hardanger Fiddle d

Hjertelig takk:  
Charlotte Breivik, Lussekatter and kirkekaffe preparations

All the parents and many volunteers who have done so much to make today's pageant possible, and to the members of Mindekirken for their support of children's programs like this Santa Lucia Pageant!

- a - First year participant
- b - Soloist, reader or candle lighter
- c - Came from out of state to participate today
- d - Parent of one of today's performers
- e - Has participated in five or more Lucia pageants



Today's pageant is dedicated to the memory of Russ Erickson. Now, at our fourth Christmas without him, Mindekirken continues to miss our dear friend and mentor. Russ loved children and was a true educator. As a chess teacher, he inspired his students to work hard, bringing his students as far as the national championships. As one of Santa's helpers, he listened carefully to countless children as they told him their Christmastime dreams. As a man of God, he dedicated his time to our church community, caring for our church grounds and demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23). We miss you, Russ!

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