



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank15

SANTA LUCIA SERVICE

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1984

St. Lucia Day

The Swedish Christmas (*jul*) begins on December 13, known as Lucia Day. Early in the morning on this date, at first cock-crow, households throughout the land are awakened by a “Lucia.” She is usually the eldest daughter of the family, dressed in a traditional white robe with a sash and wearing a crown with lighted candles. It is customary for her to carry a tray with coffee and special saffron buns to each one in the family as she serenades them with the lovely old Sicilian melody, Santa Lucia.

This custom began long ago. According to legend, Lucia was a medieval saint who carried food and drink to hungry folk in the province of Varmland during a period of famine. Because she was seen crossing Lake Vanern clothed in white and with a crown of light encircling her head, the modern Lucias dress in white and wear crowns with lighted candles, or “living candles” as they are called in Sweden.

This festival has been celebrated in many provinces since the Middle Ages and its traditions have for centuries passed from one generation to another. The Lucia legend is said to have originated in Syracuse, on the island of Sicily. There the first Lucia, a young girl about to be a bride, gave her entire dowry to the poor people of her village and admitted that she had become a Christian. Accused of witchcraft, she was taken prisoner and burned at the stake December 13, 304 A.D. Later, she was canonized by the early church and thus received the name by which she is now known—Santa Lucia. She is sometimes pictured by Italian artists as a blind girl holding a lamp. There are many legends, but in each one, Lucia becomes the symbol of light and hope to mankind. She comes on the darkest day of the year to herald the glad Christmas time.

Many old beliefs exist in connection with the day which, according to the Old Style Julian Calendar, was the shortest day of the year. It marked the solstice, the date upon which the sun apparently stands still in its motion from the Equator. This they recognized as the turning point toward spring. All the work of harvesting, spinning, weaving, baking and brewing must be finished and the whole house thoroughly cleaned and put in order for the Christmas holidays, so soon to follow. If those preparations were made, happiness and prosperity would follow throughout the year. During all these activities, Lucia is the central figure.

Today, it is not only in the homes of Sweden, but also in schools, offices, hospitals, orphanages and other public buildings of the land that Lucia appears to open the Yuletide. The Norwegians have, to a large extent, adopted this tradition and can thus thank their Swedish friends and neighbors for this lovely way to begin the Christmas holidays in a spirit of friendliness and good will to all.

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Sample Program

_____ Church

_____ (Address)

Skandinavisk gudstjeneste
(Scandinavian worship service)

Santa Lucia Fest

Søndag, Desember 19

Tid: _____ a.m./p.m./

Preludium

Organist _____
(Name)

Salme

Jeg synger julekvad

Salme

Glade jul

Preken av pastor

(Sermon by)

(Name)

(Name of Chorus
or Singing Group)

Jeg er så glad hver julekveld

Du grønne, glitrende tre

Deilig er jorden

Fortellingen om Santa Lucia

(The legend of Santa Lucia)

(Name of Speaker)

Lucia kommer inn med sine terner

(Lucia enters with her attendants)

Solo: Santa Lucia

(Name of Soloist)

Scripture:

Matteus (Matthew) 5:3–10, 14–15

In English

(Name of Reader)

In Norwegian
or Swedish

(Name of Reader)

Lucia-ternene tenner lysene
(The Lucia attendants light the candles)

Ternene synger: Jesus Bids Us Shine
(The attendants sing)

Dikt (Poem): Lucia

(Name of Reader)

Solo: Nå tennes tusen julelys

(Singer)

Lucia går ut med sine terner
(Lucia and her attendants leave)
Solo: Santa Lucia

(Singer)

Salme

O du salige, o, du hellige

Kollekt og annonseringer
(offering and announcements)

(Pastor)

Salme

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Velsignelse
(Benediction)



Sample of News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact _____

(Name)

(Phone No.)

SANTA LUCIA SERVICE

On Sunday, December _____, the Norwegian/Swedish Festival of Santa Lucia will be presented at _____ Church at (time): _____. Featured in the service will be Lucia, (name): _____ and her eight attendants. Together with soloist and readers, we will celebrate Scandinavian tradition and heritage in a religious setting.

(If special guest/performers, add this information to the news release. If sermon is delivered in Swedish or Norwegian, this should also be indicated.)

Following the services, all are invited to a Scandinavian buffet. All who can are asked to bring Scandinavian baked goods or other suitable foods and you are welcome to wear your Scandinavian costume.

_____ will entertain.

This is a Scandinavian service, celebrating Santa Lucia (SAHN' tah Luh' SIH' ah). The Lucia celebration is originally a Swedish tradition, but all lyrics are in Norwegian here (also some in Swedish). If possible, the sermon might be in Norwegian or Swedish.

Cast:

Lucia girl—preferably a high school girl. If she can sing, it's a plus.

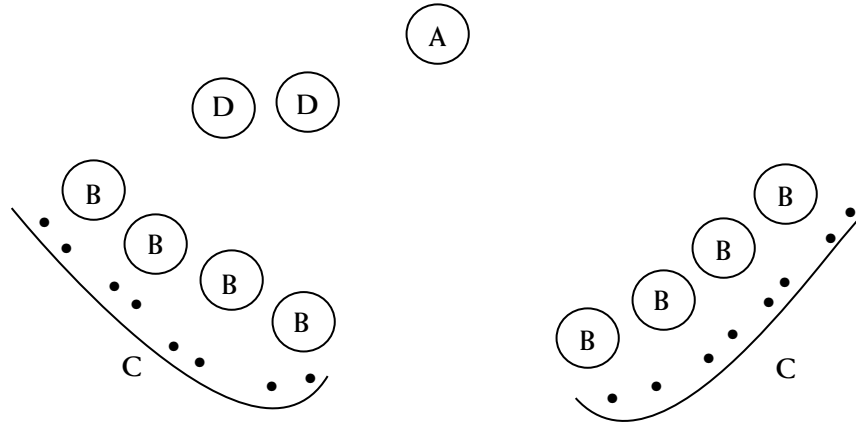
8 attendants—girls ranging in age from 10 to 15.

1 soloist—must be able to sing in Norwegian/ Swedish.

2 readers—one of whom reads Norwegian/Swedish. (A Scandinavian exchange student is good here if one is available.)

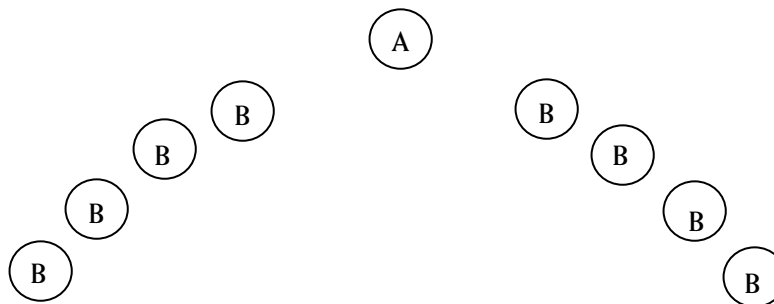
Procedure

As soloist sings “Santa Lucia”, the Lucia procession enters. Lucia is white-robed with a crimson sash and wears a crown with lighted candles. She carries a tray with a coffee pot, cup, and plate of buns or a candle. She is followed by her attendants—two by two—also white-robed and each carrying a candle. When they arrive at the front of the church, they take their places as follows:



- A—Lucia
- B—8 attendants
- C—Altar rail with 8 candles each
- D—Readers/soloist

(The readers and soloist go to seats by altar before pageant starts.) As each verse of scripture is read, candles are lit by girls—two candles apiece, one for an English verse and one for a Swedish verse. The girls take new places as:



- A—Lucia
- B—Attendants

See program for order of ceremony. Girls go out again to “Santa Lucia”—Lucia going first, followed by eight attendants.

After the service, Scandinavian specialties are served. Tables are set up with Scandinavian-inspired centerpieces. Scandinavian singers and/or dancers entertain.

Songs

On the following pages are the lyrics to songs that may be used during the service. Please refer to a standard hymnal for music. If you have any trouble finding the music to these songs, please contact the Heritage Department.

Norwegian Table Prayer

*I Jesu navn går vi til bords
Og spiser, drikker på ditt ord
Deg, Gud, til ære, oss til gavn
Så får vi mat i Jesu navn.
Amen.*

Ih' JEH 'suh 'NAHVN 'gohr VIH 'tihl 'BOHRS
'Ohg 'SPI'sehr, 'DRIH'kehr 'POH 'diht 'ORH
'Day 'GUHD, 'tihl 'AH're, 'OHS 'tihl 'GAHVN.
'Soh 'FOR 'vih 'MAHT 'ih 'JEH'suh 'NAHVN.
Amen.

Lucia

(Swedish Version)

*Ur de långa och tyngande natter
som den koldgrå december oss ger,
vilka ruva kring kalnade slatter
och kring stadernas skumma kvarter,
se vi fram mot den langsta av alla
då den vantande vandningen sker
då ur allt detta mörka och kalla
Lucia i glans mot oss ler.*

*Se, nu kommer hon, vitkladd och fager,
i den skrud som vår langtan befallt!
kann—det flaktar av gryende dagar
kring den kommande ljusa gestalt!
och ur skuggor och koldnatter tunga
vaknar hoppet ånyo til liv.
O, Lucia, du leende unga,
din strålende lysglans oss giv!
(Av E. S. Lund—By E. S. Lund)*

(Norwegian version)

*I de lange og mørksvarte netter
som den kaldgrå desember oss gir,
der den tynger de værharde sletter
og de frastlåtte byenes spir,
ser vi fram til den lengste av alle,
da det ventede omslaget skjer.
Da fra alt dette mørke og kalde,
Lucia i glans mot oss ler.*

*Se, nå kommer hun, hvitkledd og fager
i sin drakt, hvit som skinnende sne.
Hun gir bud om de kommende dager
når vi lyset igjen vil få se.
Ut av skygger og kaldnetter tunge
våkner håpet om spirende liv.
Å, Lucia, du leende unge,
din stålende lysglans oss giv.
—To Norwegian by Liv Nordem Lyons*

Santa Lucia

(Swedish version)

1. *Sankta Lucia,
Ljusklara haging,
sprid i vår vinternatt
glans av din faging
Drommar med vingesus
undret oss sia,
tand dina vita ljus
Sankta Lucia*
2. *Kom i din vita skrud
huld med din maning,
skank oss, du julens brud
julfrojders aning.
Drommar med osv.*
3. *Trollsejd och morkermakt
just du betvingar,
signade lågors vakt
skydd åt oss bringar.
Drommar med osv.*
4. *Stjarnor som leda oss
vagen att finna
bli dina klara bloss,
fagra prastinna.
Drommar med osv.*

(Norwegian Version)

1. *Santa Lucia
lysbærerinne
La i den mørke natt
Drømmen om krybbebarn
Jomfru Maria,
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.*
2. *Kom i din hvite drak
være her til stede,
gi oss, du julens brud,
budskap om glede
Drømmen om osv..*
3. *Trolldom og mørkemakt
lyst du betvinger
Lysene som står vakt
trygghet oss bringer
Drømmen om osv.*
4. *Stjerner som leder oss,
veien å finned,
blir dine fagre bluss,
fagre prestinne.
Drømmen om osv.*

Jesus Bids Us Shine

Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light
Like a bright candle burning in the night
In His world of darkness we must shine
You in your own corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine first of all for Him
Well, He sees and knows it if our light is
dim.
He looks down from heaven; sees us shine,
You in your own corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around.
Many kinds of darkness in this world
abound.
Sin and want and sorrow; we must shine
You in your own corner, and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine as we work for him
Bringing those that wander from the paths
of sin.
He will ever help us if we shine,
You in your own corner, and I in mine.

**A Thousand Christmas Lights are Lit
(Nå tennes tusen julelys)**

by Emmy Køhler

(Swedish version)

*Nu tändes tusen julejus på jordens mörka rund,
och tusen, tusen strå-a och på himlens djuplå
grund*

*Och över stad och land i kvall går julens glada
bud,
att född är Herren, Jesus Krist, vår frälsare och
Gud.*

*Du stjärna över Betlehem, o, låt ditt milda ljus
få lysa inn med hopp och frid i varje hem och
hus.*

*I varje hjarta, armt och mörkt, send du en stråle
blid,
En stråle av Guds kärleks ljus i signad juletid.*

(Norwegian Version)

*Nø 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
Gud.*

*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 lysstreif ifra sky,
så finner det den rette vei, og det blir jul på ny.*

(English Version)

A thousand Christmas lights are lit; the
Earth is all ablaze
The stars of Heaven greet mankind in
blessed Christmas Days.

Throughout the land, a message sweet
lights hope and glad delight;
A child is born to save us all, our Lord has
come tonight.

O, shining star of Bethlehem, send wishes
from above
for Christmas to forever mean eternal
peace and love.

And kindle in our hearts a flame of good
will towards all men
to make the earth a better place till
Christmas comes again.

—Translated by Liv Norden Lyons

**I Am So Glad
(Jeg er så glad hver julekveld)**

(Norwegian Version)

*Jeg er så glad hver julekveld
For da ble Jesus født
Da lyste stjernen som en sol
Og engler sang så søtt.*

*Det lille barn i Betlehem
Han var en konge stor
Som kom fra himmelens høye slott
Ned til får arme jord.*

*Nu bor han høyt i himmerik,
Han er Guds egen sønn,
Som husker alltid på de små
Og hører deres bønn.*

*Jeg er så glad hver julekveld
Da syner vi hans pris,
Da åpner han for alle små
Sitt søte paradys.*

(English Version)

I am so glad on Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesu' birth.
Then like the sun the stars came down,
and angels sang on Earth.

The little child in Bethlehem
He was a King, indeed,
Who came to us from heaven above
To help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm
The Son of God today.
And still He loves His little ones,
And hears whom when they pray.

I am so glad on Christmas Eve,
His praises then I sing.
He opens then for every child
The palace of the King.

**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
(Jeg synger julekvad)**

by J. Klug, 1535

(Norwegian Version)

*Jeg synger julekvad
Jeg er så glad, så glad,
min hjertens Jesus hviler
i stall og krybbe trang,
som solen klare smiler
han på sin moders fang.
Han er Frelser min,
Han er Frelser min.*

*O Jesus, du barnlill,
deg lenges jeg så til,
kom trøst meg alle sinde
tred in om her er smått,
la meg deg se og finne,
å, da har jeg det godt.
Drag meg efter deg,
Drag meg efter deg.*

(English Version)

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
Lo! He from whom joy streameth,
Poor in the manger lies;
Yet not so brightly seemeth
The sun in yonder skies,
Thou my Savior art,
Thou my Savior art.

A gift from heav'n to me,
I cannot rise to Thee,
O cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child,
Through all Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Lead me up to Thee,
Lead me up to Thee.

Song to the Christmas Tree
(Sang til juletreet)
by Edvard Grieg

(Norwegian Version)

*Du grønne, glitrende tre, goddag!
Velkommen, du som vi ser så gjerne,
med julelys og med norske flagg
Og høyt i toppen den blanke stjerne!
Ja, den må skinne,
for den skal minne
oss om vår Gud!*

*Den første jul i et fremmed land
sin store stjerne Vårherre tente;
den skulle vise får jord at han
den lille Jesus til verden sendte
I stjerneglansen
gikk engledansen
om Betlehem.*

*Om Jesusbarnet fortalte mor
så mang en aften vi satt her hjemme;
vi kan hans bud og hans milde ord,
vi vet at aldri vi dem må glemme.
Når stjernen skinner,
om ham oss minner
vårt juletre.*

(English Version)

O, welcome, glittering Christmas tree!
A greeting meets you from near and far—
Your Christmas lights and Norwegian flags
And on the top the blinking star
÷/÷The star is shining
And thus reminding÷/÷
÷/÷Us of our Lord÷/÷

The first joyful Christmas on Earth
Our Lord lit for us a guiding light
To tell mankind about Jesu' birth,
God's son, born in the darkest night
÷/÷The star was blinking
And angels singing÷/÷
÷/÷O'er Bethlehem÷/÷

The Christmas story again and again
Was told us in our childhood home
And when we follow His word, we then
will live together in His love.
÷/÷The star is shining,
The tree reminding÷/÷
÷/÷Us of our Lord.÷/÷

**Silent Night
(Glade jul)**
by Franz Grüber

(Norwegian Version)

*Glade jul, hellige jul,
Engler daler ned i skjul.
Hit de flyver med paradys grønt
Hvor de ser hva for Gud er skjønt.
løndig iblant oss de går.*

*Julefryd, evige fryd,
Hellig sang med himmelsk lyd.
Det er engler som hyrdene så
dengang Herren i krybben lå.
Evig er englenes sang,
Evig er englenes sang.*

*Fred på jord, fryd på jord,
Jesus barnet blant oss bor.
Engler synger om barnet så smukt,
Han har himmeriks dør opplukt.
Salig er englenes sang
Salig er englenes sang*

(English Version)

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark, the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
“Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings,
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth
“Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.”