



Salvation

Friday 13th December 2024 – St Lucy



St Lucy (19th century) Figure from Puerto Rico, Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Scripture: Psalm 27.1-4, 13-14

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold* of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.
- ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

- ⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
- ¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

To reflect

Today is the day of St Lucy (Lucia of Syracuse) who is associated with light as her name shares a root with the Latin word for light: *lux*. Some recollections of St Lucy's death as a martyr involve her eyes being gouged out so representations of her often incorporate eyes and a lamp. This can be seen in the figure of St Lucy from Puerto Rico depicted above. There are many Scandinavian traditions associated with St Lucy – candles, light, saffron buns, thinking about the light and aid St Lucy brought to Christian in hiding in the third century. She is also a reminder and sign of light in the darkest days of Winter.

The word for reflection today is Salvation, being rescued by God from the consequences of our wrongdoing, being delivered from humanity's ever-ongoing to mess up, and to sin. Salvation is why God sent Jesus to earth, to be the light of the world and so that each of us might have eternal life. For St Lucy recognising her salvation led to her making decision against what the world expected of her, of choosing to help others, even though it was dangerous.

What do the ideas of light, seeing and salvation bring to mind for you this Advent?

To Pray – A Collect for St Lucy (from Common Worship)

God our redeemer,
who gave light to the world that was in darkness
by the healing power of the Saviour's cross:
shed that light on us, we pray,
that with your martyr Lucy
we may, by the purity of our lives,
reflect the light of Christ
and, by the merits of his passion,
come to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Sankta Lucia (Saint Lucia)' a traditional Swedish hymn to St Lucy, one version is by Lund Korallerna Girls Choir.
- 'A Nocturnall (Upon St Lucy's)' is a poem by John Donne reflecting on the darkness and end of the year. There is a recording of the poem read by Richard Burton on the playlist.
- 'Salvation Belongs to You' by Martin Smith, from the 'Joy' Album. This song reflects on Salvation and Jesus our King.

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