

Lucia Ritual 2024

Everyone sits in a circle with a gap in the North West to allow Lucia room to enter. Everyone already has with them a charm bag, slips of paper and a pencil/pen. (These will be handed out before the ritual.)

A bell is rung to sanctify the space.

We call upon the Elements which make up all of life.

Summoner of Air says:

Element of Air, Spirit of the East and of the Springtime, you who are our breath of life and inspiration, grant us your presence and protection at this ritual. Element of Air, we bid you hail and welcome.

Summoner of Fire says:

Element of Fire, Spirit of the South and of the Summer, you who are our warmth and light, our energy and passion, the divine spark within, grant us your presence and protection at this ritual. Element of Fire, we bid you hail and welcome.

Summoner of Water says:

Element of Water, Spirit of the West and of the Autumn, you who are the raging Sea, the still, calm pool and the gentle rain, grant us your presence and protection at this ritual. Element of Water, we bid you hail and welcome.

Summoner of Earth says:

Element of Earth, Spirit of the North and of the Winter, you who are our firm foundation, hearth and home, our food and our security, grant us your presence at this ritual. Element of Earth, we bid you hail and welcome.

We invite the deities of our land.

Summoner of the Lord of Norfolk says:

Flint Lord of Norfolk you run with the deer

Protect us from harm, from plague, famine and fear.

With grey blade and antler you craft and you build,

Teach us like you to be powerful and skilled.

In your blue Summer skies let us soar with the lark

And in sweet, sacred darkness we'll kindle your spark.

Summoner of the Lady of Norfolk says:

Lady of Norfolk, white chalk on the sand,

Step out from the sea to bring love to our land.

Let your sheep bring us wool for warmth, beauty and wealth,

As the Earth and her creatures are blessed with good health.

Pray nurture the herbs, fruits and flowers that we sow

And like them, in your care, let us flourish and grow.

Purpose

The purpose of this ritual is to express our gratitude for the benefits of the dark time, to relinquish the dark fears which hinder us and to receive the blessings of the Light Bringer.

The Spirit of Joy in the Darkness speaks:

We dwell now in the season of darkness. Let us acknowledge with gratitude the many blessings of this time. We rejoice in the long nights for love and passion, for the dreaming that heals the soul and body or takes us on the spirit flight to join the frenzied sabbat, or to discover a sacred mystery held within the heart of the nocturnal world. We embrace the hearth fire and the sprawl of cats upon the rug, greedy for warmth upon their fur. We cherish the time with friends and family, the sweet treats and spiced wine in the flickering candlelight. We honour the times of solitude, of meditation as the light fails and the kennings in the branches of ash and oak appear as gales rip the last leaves from the fragile twigs.

Fill your charm bag with your gratitude for these good things.

Participants all fill their black bags with expressions of their gratitude. This can be in writing or simply muttered into the bag.

The Challenger of Dark Fears speaks:

We dwell now in the season of darkness. Let us acknowledge what we fear in the deepening shadows: the talons that snatch the prey, the beak that rips the flesh, the eldritch scream that chills the marrow of our being. We may dread the cold when the wood pile is running low or the money for the meter is already spent. We are beset with sounds and images of war and want and of madmen taking power. We may worry endlessly about these times of lack and loss and of the natural world despoiled. We may fear work, or idleness, sickness or the need for action, loneliness or the obligation to be with people. Set down your fears in writing and find the courage to relinquish that which binds you and which blights your life.

Each participant writes down their fears on a piece of paper and places them in the cauldron carried round by **the Challenger of Dark Fears**.

The Summoner of the Light speaks:

We dwell now in the season of anticipation. Folk of all faiths yearn for the Light's return, when the Sun's power starts to wax once more, when the Oak defeats the Holly, when Mithras is reborn and the Christ child lies once more in a manger in a stable. So, in the darkness, let us call that Shining One who brings us hope of light.

Lucia, herald of light's return, come to us now as we dwell in the darkness of the still-waning year. Bring us the sweetness of your music, your clarity of vision, your promise of renewal. From the long nights' fears and shadows, we call to you. Let your distant flame burn bright for us, as you draw ever nearer to confer your blessings on those who wait with hope.

The music plays and **Lucia, the Ickeny and the Ickeny's person** process into the centre of the room.

The **Summoner of Light** conveys the blessing of Lucia:

Hear the blessings of Lucia:

My crown burns bright with promise and with blessings.

To each hearth and home I bring my light and joy,

Healing to heart and soul,

Warmth in the cold,

Sustenance to those who hunger,

Laughter to those who have wept too long,

Love to the lonely

And clear sight to the wise.

Accept with gratitude

My flame of inspiration

Work my magic in the shadow corners of your lives

And shine with brilliance when the Star Child is reborn.

The Summoner of Light lights the altar candles.

The Challenger of Dark Fears holds out the cauldron towards **Lucia** and says:

Lucia, bringer of Light, transform the fears we have relinquished into strengths.

Lucia blesses the cauldron and its contents.

The Challenger of Dark Fears says:

May these precious gems dispel your fears and bring you the strength and courage that you need.

The Ickeny then goes to each participant in turn and offers them one of the Light Bringer's green stones.

The Closing

We honour all who have been present at this rite. As we draw our work to a close, we ask that their blessings remain with us.

The Summoner of Light says:

Lucia, we thank you for your presence here and for the gifts you give us now and always. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Lucia, the Ickeny and **the Ickeny's person** process out of the circle.

Summoner of the Lady of Norfolk says:

Lady of Norfolk, we give thanks for your presence and the gifts you have brought us. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Summoner of the Lord of Norfolk says:

Lord of Norfolk, we give thanks for your presence and the gifts you have brought us. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Summoner of the Element of Earth says:

Element of Earth, we give thanks for your presence and the gifts you have brought us. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Summoner of the Element of Water says:

Element of Water, we give thanks for your presence and the gifts you have brought us. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Summoner of the Element of Fire says:

Element of Fire, we give thanks for your presence and the gifts you have brought us. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Summoner of the Element of Air says:

Element of Air, we give thanks for your presence and the gifts you have brought us. As our rite draws to a close, we ask that your blessings remain ever with us, even as we bid you hail and farewell.

Ring the bell to return the sacred space to its mundane form.