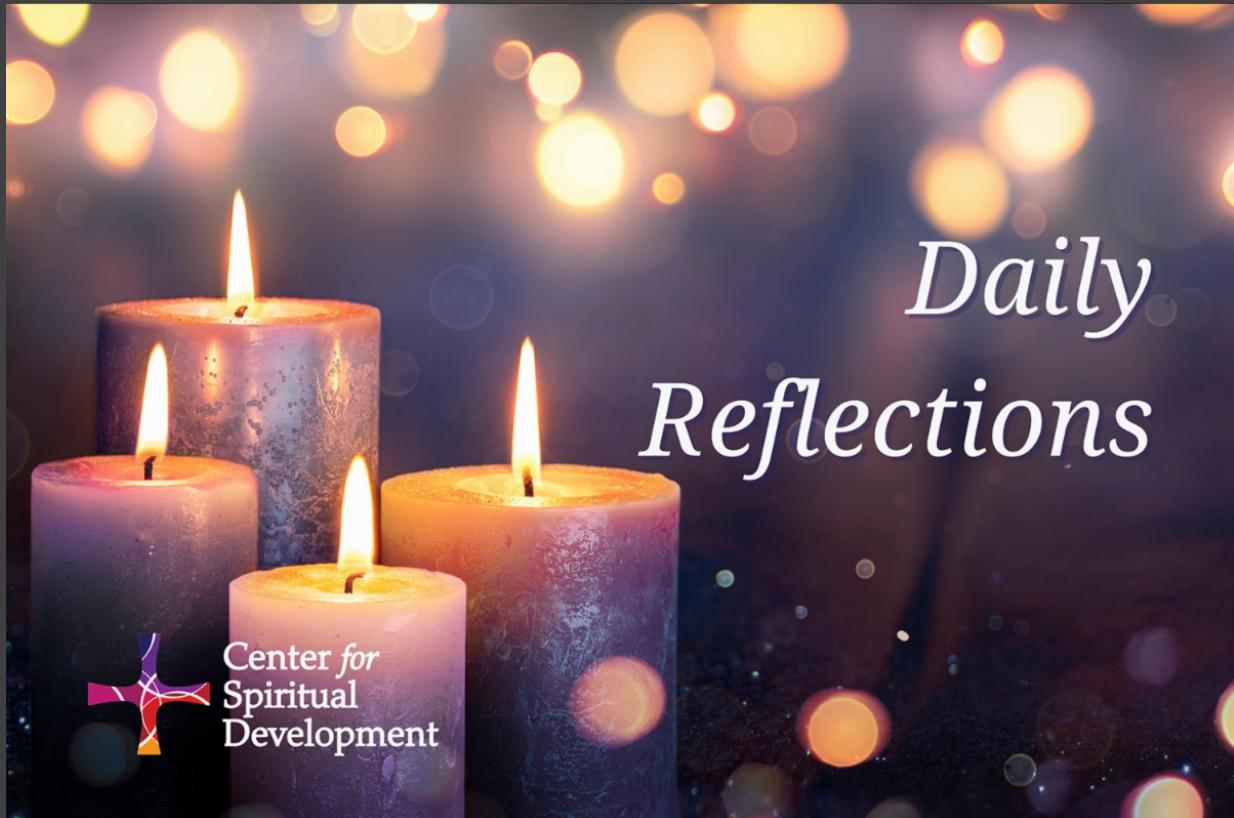


December 13, 2025



CHRIST'S LIGHT

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Readings

In those days, like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah whose words were as a flaming furnace.

SIRACH 48:1

"Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him...." ... The disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

MATTHEW 17:12, 13

Reflection

Today is the Memorial of St. Lucy. The name Lucy means "light" and in the Season of Advent, she reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the Light of the world. Today's readings and the life of St. Lucy remind us that this is the

time to prepare our hearts for Jesus Christ.

Elijah the prophet was “filled with the Holy Spirit”; he reminded Israel of God’s covenant and called them back to faithfulness. He was a prophet full of zeal and courage, faithful to God’s call in his life. This reading at the end of the second week of Advent reminds us that we are to be prophets as well -- not necessarily in this bold and courageous way, though we are called to witness through how we lead and live our lives each day.

The connection between Elijah and John the Baptist is because John the Baptist fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy by coming “in the spirit and power of Elijah” to prepare the way for our Savior, Jesus Christ. It means that John is the symbolic fulfillment of Elijah’s role because he mirrors Elijah’s prophetic zeal and also functions as a forerunner, rather than being the actual prophet reincarnated.

Matthew’s Gospel is intriguing because we can come to better understand the connection between Elijah and John the Baptist and not miss the deeper message found in these readings. In Jesus’ time the people weren’t making this connection. This can happen to us, too, if we miss how Jesus comes to us today, and many times, in very unexpected ways. Do we see the face of Christ in persons without homes, in the frail and ill, or in the mirror itself? If our lives are so busy and focused on what needs to be accomplished, at the expense of our call to be brothers and sisters to one another, then we too are not making the connections we need to be making.

This Season of Advent is a time where we are being called to conversion of heart and mind. St. Lucy responded to God’s call in her life through her prophetic spirit and fidelity to Christ in the face of persecution. She did not allow the darkness in the world to extinguish the Christ-light within her. What about you and me – how is our light shining and witnessing to the light of Christ in each of us?



Photo by Cullan Smith

For Pondering

- Advent is the time to turn from all that distracts us from our prayer and relationship with the Beloved. How might you need to pivot or make adjustments in your life to allow for a bit more time for prayer and reflection as the birth of Jesus draws ever closer?
- How is our light shining and witnessing and pointing others to God? How might you cast light a bit larger into the world through your thoughts, words, deeds, and actions?

For Prayer

*O ever-present Christ, light of our lives,
may we be the prophetic witnesses you invite us to be.
Let us not grow weary or tired of our faithful commitment to you.
May we continue to live as people of the light*

*as the great starry night of Jesus' birth approaches.
Amen.*

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