

The Following Collect, Epistle & Gospel will be read during the Eucharist today in the personal Chapel of the Presiding Archbishop of the Australian Church of Antioch, The Most Reverend Frank Bugge.

The 23rd Sunday after Trinity

Green.

Intent - Practising Religion.

Candles 6.

The Collect.

Almighty God, we pray that the words which we hear this day with our outward ears may through your grace be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honour and praise of your name; through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle for the 23rd Sunday after Trinity is from the writings of Bishop Leadbeater.

God in past times has spoken to our ancestors in many ways and through many preachers, and now in these days he speaks through the Christed Jesus. Some of those preachers of God we remember are Buddha, Vyasa, Zoroaster, Thoth, Orpheus, all great people who founded religions. They were all manifestations of the same mighty teacher, all messengers of God. All their founded religions are as coloured lenses through which shines the same powerful brilliant light; they are all statements of the same great truth; therefore, whatever is found philosophically stated in those older faiths is found also represented in Christianity. It is for us now to add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, or as St Peter put it, we should be educating ourselves to take part in the spiritual life before us. All religions are the same, in that they all teach us that the path of holiness is the only way to reach final perfection; but our special line in Christianity is to try to develop ourselves by means of service to others.

Here Endeth the Epistle.

The Gospel for the 23rd Sunday after Trinity is from the Cromlech Temple Papers.

We are apt to say --- if God approved of my praying thus, he would give me proof of his approval by consolations. I am simply wasting my time --- To which St Ignatius replies --- Oh poor in faith and weak in love wilt thou then depart from God, because he seems to hide Himself for a moment. If the student expects arid periods, he will not be disturbed. He knows they are inevitable and will pass. The more the student completely reaches the prayer of simplicity, the more the student can render themselves passive, and the less painful these interludes will be. Furthermore, if the student be assailed by doubts and difficulties, as all the Saints have been at times on reaching this state, then said student must recognise that this is a sure sign that they have not fully arrived at the state of the prayer of affection, for its essence is that it transcends reason.

Praise Be to Thee O Christ.