

The Following Collect, Epistle & Gospel was 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 16th Sunday after Trinity

Intent - Proof of Faith.

The Collect.

O eternal source of our spiritual strength and discipline, teach us how to expel our faults, and give us the fortitude to forgive others in face of all temptations, as we in turn have been shown mercy and love by our Saviour the Christ. Amen.

The Epistle for the 16th Sunday after Trinity is from the writings of Annie Besant.

Faith is the upwelling within, of ones own divine essence, seeking the divine ocean of like essence. When the essence breaks through the lower nature that holds it in, the power thus liberated works on the whole nature, bringing it into harmony with itself. But God always respects our individuality, and will not enter our consciousness until that consciousness opens to give him welcome. Behold I stand at the door and knock is the attitude of every spiritual intelligence towards the evolving human soul. Not for lack of sympathy is this so, but in the deepest wisdom. Humanity is not to be compelled, we are to be free. We are not slaves, but Gods in the making, and the growth cannot be forced, but must be willed from within. Only when the will consents will God influence us. This will then be with the upwelling within us, which is faith.

Here Endeth the Epistle.

The Gospel for the 16th Sunday after Trinity is from the lessons of Lamaas.

Lamaas asked his teacher - What is faith? The teacher then replied - faith is the surety of the omnipotence of God and humanity, the certainty that we will reach the deity in life. This salvation is a ladder reaching from the heart of each of us to the heart of God. It has three steps - belief is the first, and this is what we think perhaps is truth. Faith is the next, and this we know as truth. Fruition is the last, and this is the person themselves, the truth. Belief is lost in faith; faith is lost in fruition; and we are saved then for we have reached deific life, when we and God are now one.

Praise Be to Thee O Christ.