

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 17th Sunday after Trinity

Green.

Intent - Spiritual Progress.

Candles 6.

The Collect.

Almighty God, grant we pray you that we may loyally serve you in this life, that we may be numbered among your real and trusty servants in all lives to come; this we ask through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle for the 17th Sunday after Trinity is from the writings of Bishop Leadbeater.

In the course of many lives, we develop within ourself many qualities, some good some evil; but while all good development is steadily stored up and accumulated within the causal body, that which is evil can only express itself through the lower vehicles. Under the divine law, every person receives the results of their own action, whether it be good or bad; but the evil can only exist on the lower planes. Only in these planes can evil vibrations be expressed, for there are no overtones in the causal body responding to evil. Therefore all evil must be worked out in incarnations now or in the future. A good action produces results upon the lower planes, but it also affects the higher planes with a permanent effect which resides within the causal body. Thus while all qualities produce results on the lower temporary vehicles, only the good qualities are retained by the causal, and this is a definite gain to the real person. The evil will meet the person in every incarnation until it is vanquished by the personality. Then the love of the higher forces within the causal, will be able to flow freely and great progress is made in the striving to perfection.

Here Endeth the Epistle.

The Gospel for the 17th Sunday after Trinity is from the book called Janardana.

A princess named Radha was attended by a guru to teach her all ways of life. As the two sat in a wayside temple to await the passing of the noonday heat, the Guru pointed to a pool where the lotus blossoms bloomed, and said to her: Mud, water, sunshine, and lo, the miracle of the lotus. Canst thou read me the riddle, O Chela? If I have rightly heard thy teaching, master, she replied, man is the flower of light growing upwards through the mud of the body and the water of the soul, into the sunlit ether of the spirit; and only when he attains the third and perfect state will he know that flower and stalk and root are an eternal substance. Thou hast answered well --- Let it be granted that wise men represent the stalk in the lotus of humanity, and they must yearn with all their might from the mud of the root if mankind is ever to pass beyond the swaying of the shadowy waters, and know the glory of the light. The princess said --- has this lotus never bloomed? O yes said the Guru --- it has bloomed in Christ and in the messengers of the deity who were before him. This message of the lotus annuls the statement that life is short, and substitutes for it that life is eternal.

Praise Be to Thee O Christ.