

**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.**

**Christmas Day.**

**White.**

**Intent - The birth.**

**Candles Many.**

*The same Collect, Epistle and Gospel shall be used until New Years Day.*

**The Collect.**

Dear and Holy Lord, we praise you, thank you and bless you for this your wondrous feast of Christmas, praying that as you were born on earth at this time for us, so may you be born again within the hearts of all mankind; who with the Father reigns throughout the ages of ages. Amen.

**The Epistle for Christmas Day is from the writings of Bishop Leadbeater.**

There is one aspect rarely thought of in the birth of The Christ; the coming of the development of the Christ principle within us. That Christ principle is in every one of us, and it can be awakened. To touch that wonderful consciousness, to realize the Christ within us is not so impossible, for it is being done by many even now at this time. Gleams of its glory will at times manifest itself, maybe only for a few moments, but it is so uplifting and gives us moments of wonderful peace. Those of us to whom these glimpses have come can never forget them; however much afterwards doubt, uncertainty, sorrow and despair may overwhelm us, we have known, and therefore inside we still know, and that certainty nothing can shake.

**Here Endeth the Epistle.**

**The Gospel for Christmas Day is from the Aquarian Gospel.**

The time was nearly due for Jesus to be born, and Mary longed to see Elizabeth, and she and Joseph turned their faces toward the Judean hills. At Bethlehem the day was done, and they must tarry for the night. All the inn's and homes were filled with guests, and they could find no place but a cave where animals were kept; and there they slept. At midnight came a cry; a child is born in yonder cave amid the beasts. Lo, the promised son of man was born. Strangers took the little one and wrapped him in a dainty robe that Mary had prepared and laid him in a trough from which the beasts fed. Three persons came in, clad in snow white robes and they said; all strength wisdom and love be yours, Immanuel. Now on the hills of Bethlehem were many flocks of sheep with shepherds guarding them. The shepherds were devout men of prayer, and they were waiting for a strong deliverer to come. And when a child of promise came, a man in snow white robe appeared to them, and they fell back in fear. The man stood forth and said - Fear not; behold I bring you joyful news. At midnight in a cave in Bethlehem was born a prophet and King that you have long waited for. The Shepherds were glad; they felt all the hills were filled with messengers of light, who said; glory be to God on high; peace on earth, good will to men.

**Praise Be to Thee O Christ.**