

**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 2nd Sunday in Lent**

**Violet.**

**Intent - Control of Speech.**

**Candles 6.**

**The Collect.**

O God, grant that our hearts may be so filled with love and wisdom that we may speak ill of no person, but evermore glorify your Holy Name; through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

Be with us O Lord in all our doings and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy Holy name; through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Epistle for the 2nd Sunday in Lent is from the Pistis Sophia, in the Nag Hamadi (Dead Sea Scrolls) Texts.**

An argument between the Apostles Peter and Mary Magdaline occurred. Peter complained to Jesus that Mary is always dominating the conversation with him to the exclusion of other Apostles, and displacing the rightful priority of Peter and other Apostles. Peter urges Jesus to silence her and was then quickly rebuked by Jesus. Jesus is told by Mary that she hardly dares to speak freely because she feels dominated by Peter, because he hates the female race. Jesus replied --- whoever the spirit inspires is divinely ordained to speak, no matter whether man or woman, no matter of what race or creed, no matter where they be, of high born or low born. All are equal standing in the eyes of God.

**Here Endeth the Epistle.**

**The Gospel for the 2nd Sunday in Lent is from the words of Bishop Raymond.**

Speech is one of the signs of physically developed humanity, but alas there are times when control of it is one of the signs of undeveloped spiritual humanity. What can be more inspirational than when songs of praise are spoken or sung in harmony with one's brethren. When this is done with true and genuine motive, is there a song from any animal or bird that can elevate the consciousness to create such a wonderful state of feeling of oneness with the higher beings. I think not. But when speech is the result of the lower nature showing through is there a knife or sword sharper or more cutting than the tongue. A knife wound will heal rather rapidly, but a wound from the mouth can give damage that takes ages to heal. Too often the mind is thrown out of gear when the voice exercises. This leaves the way open for many regretful statements. We are given the ability to communicate by speech that we may evolve to higher things, but in our stupidity we use it to destroy. My friends I assure you that every wound you inflict with speech will bring a karmic reaction just as surely as any wound or cut with the knife or sword. I beg of you brethren, use this talent of speech to evolve, not dissolve.

**Praise Be to Thee O Christ.**