

Year C - Pentecost

John 20:19-23

*As the Father sent me, so I send you.
Receive the Holy Spirit.*



The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."





Message

The Gospel tells us how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit! Later in the book of Acts, we read about how the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Pentecost is the Church's birthday - Happy Birthday Church! When the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples in the upper room, it empowered them to tell people all across the world the great things Jesus had done. We celebrate it as the day the Church was born, so happy birthday Church!

- At Pentecost the disciples were gathered together in one room when suddenly a powerful wind, like nothing they had seen before, came rushing through the room. Then, even stranger than that, fire suddenly appeared in the room and separated so that a tongue of fire came to rest on each person's head.
- From then on the disciples went out into the city telling everyone about the great things Jesus had done and the great love God has for them.
- They didn't stop there! They left the city and travelled out into the world, they carried the message of Jesus to every continent, sharing God's life and Spirit with everyone who heard it. And two thousand years later the same Spirit is with us.
- At anytime we can ask the Holy Spirit to be with us, at time when we might feel like we might need to be a little braver, a little stronger, a little wiser, a little kinder or a better friend, we can call on the Holy Spirit. And like Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit is with us.

Discussion questions

- What are some times when you can ask the Holy Spirit to be with us?
- Can you think of a time recently when you asked or could have asked for the Holy Spirit? What happened?
- How does it feel to know that the same Holy Spirit that fell on the disciples at Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit who is with you, always.

