

# *Pentecost Sunday*

*Submitted by Dr. Rosemary Murphy*

If you have ever been with an organization that experienced the loss of a passionate or prophetic leader, then you can identify somewhat with the disciples in today's Gospel. The disciples' sense of loss was twofold. Not only did they feel the emptiness of the absence of their master and rabbi, but they also feared that those who killed Jesus would come after them. Jesus' promise of resurrection was not enough to secure their confidence to do what the Master had called them to do.

In his account, John writes that despite locked doors, Jesus enters the room, greets the disciples with peace and shows them his wounds. This *really is* Jesus who was crucified and has risen from the dead. In the midst of their confusion and loss, the disciples have hope that they can become the bearers of the fruits of Jesus' resurrection. However, they were still fragile human beings in need of the Father's care and the gifts of the Spirit if they were to bring Jesus' mission to completion.

Today as we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost and the "birthday" of the church, the Spirit is with us and will remain with us forever. As disciples, gifted with the Spirit of Love and commissioned to bring Christ to the world, we cannot live in fear and think that there is nothing we can do about the real evil we see every day—that thinking is to deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can do something about the Ukrainian war crimes, the hate crimes in our country, gun violence on our streets, and all the divisions that thwart peace. Today Jesus calls each of us to answer the question: With my personal gifts of the Spirit, where can I serve? And, as we pray in today's Sequence:

Come Holy Spirit Come!  
On the faithful who adore  
And confess your evermore  
With your sevenfold gifts descend;  
Give us virtue's sure reward;  
Give us your salvation Lord;  
Give us joys that never end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

(Adapted from the Sequence for Pentecost)