

## Gospel Reflection

Sometimes, like the disciples, we are locked in a room. But, unlike the disciples, we are not locked in a physical room, but a room of our own making – of being fearful, prejudiced, and self-centered. We are not hiding out of fear for our lives, like the apostles, afraid of the Jews. Rather we are hiding from others people’s opinion of who we are as Christians. We are afraid to be labeled “Jesus’ freaks” when we talk about Jesus. Striving for holiness sounds too “churchy.” But we overlook the fact that each time we do the work of God and make the Spirit known for the benefit of all, we are experiencing Pentecost.

Jesus unlocks the door to our hearts when we share our faith with a friend who does not believe in God. The “tongues of fire” come upon us when we overcome obstacles in our daily life.

We sometimes judge others based on their physical appearance, income, intelligence, or other minute things that don’t really matter. We lock our hearts in accepting others as *Imago Dei*, the image of God. How often do we go to the grocery store and see someone with a bad hair cut and judge them because of that? How often do we think someone is lazy, simply because he or she failed a test? We experience Pentecost when we overcome these prejudices.

The Holy Spirit transforms us into who we need to be to fulfill Jesus’ mission. We are each given our own gift to help accomplish this role. Even though we all have different gifts, when we work together, we can help each other to achieve peace and happiness in our earthly life and spend the rest of our eternal lives with God in heaven.

- by the OLA Student Council

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*John 20:19-23*

D F P R W S V T N D Y R U  
O E O E R I E I S R S E S  
L A K O A V V R I E E H F  
P R O C E C C I L Z V T S  
R D Z N O X E P T E B A L  
W E I R H L I S B Q X F J  
H N T Q L C F Y R H G E E  
G Q I A S E L L E W W W E  
V S S I I U P O A S N I S  
V C D P U N W H T O V I K  
F O R G I V E N H N J T P  
E V I E C E R D E X M T U  
J E S U S Z M I D N N C C

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

BREATHED	DISCIPLES	DOORS
EVENING	FATHER	FEAR
FORGIVEN	HOLY SPIRIT	JESUS
JEWS	LOCKED	PEACE
RECEIVE	RETAINED	SINS

## Disciple’s Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Pentecost Sunday  
5/11/2008*

*John 20:19-23  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

[www.olaclaremont.org](http://www.olaclaremont.org)

## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *John 20:19-23*

### ***The Gospel according to John:***

On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, **he breathed on them** and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **Whose sins you forgive** are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***

## ***Pentecost – the birthday of the church!***



### **Gospel Glossary**

**Pentecost:** In Greek, this word means "the fiftieth day."

**"he breathed on them...":** The Holy Spirit is traditionally associated with the breath.

**"Whose sins you forgive...":** This statement is often cited as the Scriptural basis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

IN ONE SPIRIT WE WERE ALL BAPTIZED  
• INTO ONE BODY •



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## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- How does Jesus unlock the door of my heart?
- How do I stop prejudice in my everyday life?
- When have I experienced Pentecost?

## Closing Prayer

God our Father,

May the spirit you sent on your Church to begin the teaching of the gospel continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

**Pentecost Sunday**