

Devotion, Week of May 17, 2026 – Seventh Week of Eastertide

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

With this past Sunday, Ascension Sunday, we have ended the season of Eastertide. This coming Sunday is Pentecost, when we move from Lent, Easter, post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, and his ascension into Heaven to a focus on US. We have been focused on Jesus since Ash Wednesday in February. Now we turn to the coming of the Holy Spirit and what we consider as the founding of the church.

Jesus left instructions with his followers to go out into the whole world, spread the good news, and baptize in his name. The mysterious appearance of those tongues of fire is the commission for Jesus' followers to do just that. This coming of the Holy Spirit sets hearts on fire and gives the disciples courage to go out and evangelize. We move from inward focus on Jesus' purpose and message to a life out in the messiness of the Roman Empire as his word is proclaimed.

As we look forward to this Pentecostal celebration, let us remember that the Holy Spirit touches us also with the fire of the good news.

Jeanne