

For the Love of an Imperative Verb John 20:19-23

The Day of Pentecost, Principal Mass, Year A, RCL

add critical comments

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I **send** [πέμπω, **pémpō**] you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “**Receive** [λάβετε, **lábete**] the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” [NRSV89]

20:21

πέμπω, **pémpō**; *vb*: *pres act indicative 1st pers sg*:

translations: **send** [NRSV89, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV, NRSVue], **am sending** [ESV, NIV11, NJB], also **envío** [IAdNT]

Crossett: Might we have thought English “I send” would be a Greek imperative?

20:22

λάβετε, **lábete**; *vb*: *2nd aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from λαμβάνω:

translations: **receive** [NRSV98, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **recibid** [IAdNT]

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