

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As I write this letter to you, we are moving from the Season of Easter to the Season of Pentecost. Usually, this is signaled by the change of colors in our sanctuary from white to red. The color red is symbolic of the tongues of fire that were present over the heads of people when the Holy Spirit came upon them in Acts 2. The coming of the Holy Spirit was the beginning of the Christian Church on Earth. The arrival of the Holy Spirit brought about the conversion of 3,000 souls on the day of Pentecost. From this point on, things began to change drastically. Many more people would come to faith and be baptized after hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ being preached to them.

We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized into God's name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We, too, belong to the family of God. The Holy Spirit is our advocate, the comforter, and the sanctifier of our souls. We are a new creation in Christ, because of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. We are changed forever.

Changes are happening all around us. Businesses are reopening, and more people are venturing out again. Things seem to be returning to normal, or so we think, but not the way things were. We look at the world differently and more cautiously. Things just aren't what they used to be.

When the people received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, things were drastically different, but in the right way. God, the Holy Spirit, dwelt in their hearts as he does in ours. We are never alone because God the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we go. He is the one who gives us true peace and stability among the changes in this world. He is the one who is advocating on our behalf before God the Father in heaven. He is the one who brings about faith in our hearts to believe all that God has done for us in Christ. He is the one who gives us the strength to carry

on, even amid all the changes in this world. Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, we know Jesus and his love for us, especially now in these uncertain times. We have been united in baptism with Jesus's death and resurrection, and nothing in this world can change that. We believe all that God has revealed to us in His Word, all because of the person and work of the Holy Spirit!

We pray:

"Holy Spirit, Light divine,

Shine upon this heart of mine;

Chase the shades of night away,

Turn the darkness into day." LSB 496

Amen,

In Christ Alone,

Pastor Josh