

June 4, 2017

**“Come, Holy Spirit!”**  
**Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39**

Today is the day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the birthday of the church. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the disciples and the followers of Jesus started to speak God’s mighty act in Jesus Christ - his life, ministry, death and resurrection. That’s how church was born. Hearing the message of Peter, the book of Acts says three thousand people were baptized and became believers. Ever since the mission of church has been the same. Preach the Gospel message of God’s love and redemption in Jesus Christ, baptize those who accept the Gospel and make disciples.

Just before Jesus left earth to be united with God the Creator, Jesus commissioned his disciples: “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Mat 28:19-20) Great commissioning.

The church has been faithful throughout history in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in making his disciples, even though there have been many mistakes and errors.

Today we witness two youth openly professing being disciples through confirmation. In their baptism as infants, their parents made a promise before God and the body of Christ to nurture them in Christ’s holy church, that by their teaching and example their youth may be guided to accept God’s grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life.

So we congratulate you, Jack and Amanda’s families, for fulfilling your promise you made when they were baptized and for having nurtured them in Christian faith.

My congratulations go to this congregation too for having nurtured Amanda and Jack with your faith in Christ and with Christian love and by your teaching and examples to this day.

And Congratulations, Jack and Amanda, on finishing up Confirmation Class and being disciples of Christ by professing your faith in God, which will happen in a few minutes, before God and this congregation.

Now let’s give thanks to God for the power and work of the Holy Spirit, who has been present even before Amanda and Jack were conceived in their mothers’ wombs, for the guidance and nurturing the Spirit has done in their lives. Thanks be to God. Please join me in praising God by saying, “Alleluia, Amen!” May the power of the Holy Spirit continue to guide and nurture Amanda and Jack, and us all, so that we may continue to grow as Christ’s disciples. Amen.