



*Come Holy Light, guide divine,
Now cause the Word of life to shine.*
(LSB 497.2)

When we confess the Nicene Creed, we proclaim, “And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life...”. Did you realize that in the Old Testament Hebrew and the New Testament Greek, the words for *spirit* and *soul* are also words for *breathing*? Indeed, the Holy Spirit was present at the very beginning, eternally breathed out by God to bring breath and thus life to all of His creation. All living beings breathe. We have been breathing since we were conceived. Indeed, even when we were in the form of a single-cell zygote we were breathing. (If we hadn’t been breathing at that very early stage of development, we would not be here today.) We are alive due to the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

In Baptism, we have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit that was first poured out on the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, AD 33. The Holy Spirit brought each of us to saving faith in Jesus Christ and keeps us in that faith through the Gospel, namely through Word and Sacrament. When we take our last breath, we do so confident that on the Last Day, the Holy Spirit will raise us again, this time in glorified bodies, and gift us again with the breath of life into eternity.

Like all days in the Church Year, the high feast of the Pentecost loudly proclaims that our Triune God is truly a God of Life. All human lives matter to Him, from the time of fertilization into eternity. God really does desire that all people, bar none, be saved, come to the knowledge of the truth, and spend eternity with Him! And because they matter to Him, they matter to us as well. After all, this is why we share Christ and Him-crucified, risen and ascended, with our unchurched neighbors, praying that the Holy Spirit will use the words we speak to bring them likewise to the waters of Baptism, into the Church, and to eternal life.

God’s richest blessings this Pentecost and throughout the Church Year.