

## Rise Up!

*After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive.*

- Acts 1:3

Basking in the Easter glow of that joyous celebration of victory over death includes *fortifying* our faith in our risen Lord Jesus. Over a period of forty days Jesus did not leave something as critical as confirming His bodily resurrection to mere rumor or hearsay. "Give me some fish," He asked of those who thought perhaps they saw a ghost (Lk 24:41). "Touch my wounds," He told another disciple who wondered whether His was the same body that just a few days earlier hung dead on a Roman cross (Jn 20:27). Jesus spoke to His bewildered disciples, touched them, walked with them - and even cooked fish for them on the seashore! At the end of those forty days of Easter, so thoroughly convinced of the Lord's resurrection from the dead were His previously skeptical followers that they all went on to willingly face their own deaths, testifying with confidence that:

**"God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power." (1 Corinthians 6:14).**

A second-century convert (and church father), Tertullian, who faced his own persecution for his faith in his day famously wrote, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

And so, the church today continues to bask in the light of the Resurrection. Christ, the Light of the world, dispelled even the darkness of death. No longer do we live in death's shadow. If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His. St. Paul writes,



**"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)**

Therefore, I hope you experience the comfort and hope that come from living in the light of our Lord's resurrection! I pray it lifts you up to live the new life that is alive to God and free to reach out to others with Christ's unconquerable love.

Go boldly into service in your callings - knowing that our Lord lives and goes with you even as He promised (Mt 28:20). Rise up, men and women of God, now nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing can keep you down!

### Confirmands affirm their baptismal faith

**It is fitting that on this coming Trinity Sunday (May 22) at the 11 O'clock service, we will hear three confirmands bear witness to the risen Lord Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, these young men and one young lady will boldly confess the historic Christian faith in which they have been raised.**

Our  
catechumens

Congrats!

1. James Miller



2. Melissa Poore



3. Chandler Supple

