

“I Am The Resurrection and The Life”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: John 11: 17-27 NRSV

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Lazarus is the first person specifically mentioned that Jesus loved. What do you think their relationship was like?
2. Jesus had healed strangers, but with his friend Lazarus he was four days late from his passing. Why do you think he did this?
3. In Luke’s gospel we also hear about Mary and Martha’s encounter with Jesus. Martha was cleaning and entertaining guests, while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening. How would you describe both of their actions here? Which one in this story was doing the right thing?
4. After Martha shared her frustrations with Jesus about being four days late, she says something surprising: *But even now, I know God will give you whatever you ask of him.* What do you think Martha was thinking that Jesus could do?
5. Jesus says, “those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” What does he mean by that?
6. Martha in v. 27 makes one of the strongest declarations of faith in Scripture. What does it mean for you that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?