



Ask, Father James:

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

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Mary and Martha were grieving. Jesus sees their tears and is greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved, he and begins to weep. We can scarcely imagine life without tears. Bethany literally means “house of affliction.” There have been times when we too were in Bethany and Bethany will surely house us some day. We see in Jesus the God who suffers when God's creature suffers. When in Bethany, where do we rest our hope? Martha said to Jesus, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” (John 11:21-24). We hope for the resurrection. This is what we profess in the Creed: We look forward to the resurrection of the dead. Jesus says to Martha, and to us, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Jesus' tears and tortured emotions reflect God's agony and tears at the ravaging of humanity by pain and death. Jesus himself comes to experience death and resurrection. Our Lenten journey is to the place of the Resurrection of Jesus, which reassures us that in death, life is changed, not ended.