

*Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **LOOK**

Resurrection to eternal life is a promise in which most Christians believe. We can experience small glimpses of this throughout our life.

1. This Sunday's Old Testament reading from Ezekiel 37 describes a valley of dry bones that has lost all hope of living again but receives the breath of God. Does this remind you of any instance when you've received new hope in your own life?
2. Describe how this new life came about and what you did with it.

## **BOOK** *John 11:1-45 (death and resurrection of Lazarus)*

The raising of Lazarus stands as a hinge between Jesus' public ministry and his private ministry to the disciples. It represents a climax to Jesus' earlier actions (this is the ultimate sign, the last in a series of 7) and a foreshadowing of his own death and resurrection.

1. Some have observed that Chapter 11 is at the center of the Gospel of John, and that Martha's confession of faith is at the center of Chapter 11. What do you think prompted this confession of faith and what is its significance?
2. What doubts may have been in Martha's mind?
3. What is the importance of Jesus' reminder to Martha at the tomb about believing?

## **TOOK**

We all have access to experiencing new life because of Jesus. When we believe, we experience new life in varied ways.

1. What stone must be rolled away to allow you to come out of the tomb? Where are you seeing the possibility of new life?
2. How will you help remind another to believe as we approach Easter?