

2 April 2017 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 130; Rom. 8:6–11; John 11:1–45.

INTRO: *Prophesying Presence* – **Ezekiel 37:4**, “**Prophecy** over these bones...” **Acts 2:17**, “your sons and your daughters shall **prophecy**.”

1 Cor. 14:1, “earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may **prophecy**.”



I. PROPHECY: COME TOGETHER!

Ezekiel 37:7, “as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and **the bones came together, bone to its bone.**”

Malachi 4:6, “He will **turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...**”

John 17:20-21, “that they may all be **one.**”

Hebrews 10:25, “not neglecting to **meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

John 11:6, “So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, **he stayed two days longer** in the place where he was.”



“So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army” – Ezekiel 37:10

II. PROPHECY: COME ALIVE!

Ezekiel 37:8-10, “But there was **no breath in them**. Then he said to me, ‘**Prophecy to the breath**; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, **an exceedingly great army.**”

John 20:22, “he breathed on them and said to them, “**Receive** the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 11:13, “**how much more** will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Eph. 1:16-19, “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, **that you may know** what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is **the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.**”

Ephesians 5:18-21, “**be filled with the Spirit**, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”



III. PROPHECY: ENTER/OCCUPY/POSSESS THE LAND!

Ezekiel 37:2, “And he led me around (brought me out) among them, and behold, there were **very many** on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were **very dry**.”

Matthew 9:36, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were **harassed and helpless**, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Ezekiel 37:14, “I’ll breathe my life into you and you’ll live. Then I’ll **lead you** straight back to your land and you’ll realize that I am God.”

Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me **to bring** good news to the poor; he has **sent me** to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

Romans 8:14, “all who are **led** by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

John 11:44, “The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “**Unbind him, and let him go**.””

1 Corinthians 14:3, “the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort**.”

CONCLUSION: So in Christ, we Gather, Grow and Go!