

Today:
November 16, 2014

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 7, 32-33, 39; Ezekiel 2-3, 11:14-21, 18, 36-37; Ps. 137

God grabbed me. God's Spirit took me up and set me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them—a lot of bones! There were bones all over the plain—dry bones, bleached by the sun. He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Master God, only you know that." He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones: 'Dry bones, listen to the Message of God!'" God, the Master, told the dry bones, "Watch this: I'm bringing the breath of life to you and you'll come to life. I'll attach sinews to you, put meat on your bones, cover you with skin, and breathe life into you. You'll come alive and you'll realize that I am God!" I prophesied just as I'd been commanded. As I prophesied, there was a sound and, oh, rustling! The bones moved and came together, bone to bone. I kept watching. Sinews formed, then muscles on the bones, then skin stretched over them. But they had no breath in them. He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, son of man. Tell the breath, 'God, the Master, says, Come from the four winds. Come, breath. Breathe on these slain bodies. Breathe life!'" So I prophesied, just as he commanded me. The breath entered them and they came alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army. Then God said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.' "Therefore, prophesy. Tell them, 'God, the Master, says: I'll dig up your graves and bring you out alive—O my people! Then I'll take you straight to the land of Israel. When I dig up graves and bring you out as my people, you'll realize that I am God. 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. I've said it and I'll do it. God's Decree."

(Ezekiel 37:1-14, Message)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

When in your life have you most needed the breath of God? Why?

How do Ezekiel's visions breathe new hope into an exiled people?

How might you trust more steadily in God's Spirit today?

This Week: **November 17-22**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 11/17	Tuesday 11/18	Wednesday 11/19	Thursday 11/20	Friday 11/21	Saturday 11/22
Joshua 3-6	Joshua 7-10	Joshua 11-14	Joshua 15-18	Joshua 19-22	Joshua 23-24; Judges 1

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

What strikes you about the people crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land?

Tuesday

Why does Joshua read the Book of the Law to the people? (Joshua 8:34-35)

Wednesday

What catches your attention about the battles described in these chapters?

Thursday

What is so important about dividing the land between the people of Israel?

Friday

What is the purpose of the cities of refuge? (Joshua 20)

Saturday

What is the significance of the Lord fighting for the people? (see Joshua 23:3)

What is the importance of Joshua 24?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we focus on the prophetic voice, our memory text is **Micah 6:6-8**. In only a few verses, this passage summarizes the heart of what many of the prophets teach to God's people during the time of the kings. That being said, there are many other powerful passages throughout the prophetic literature, which you could also take to heart.

Next Sunday: November 23

Theme: Fall Mission Sunday, with guest preacher James Krabill (*not Heilsgeschichte*)

Scripture Focus: Psalms 96:4-9; John 4:19-24