



# ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

May 18-20, 2024 - Pentecost

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**I will put my Spirit in you and you will live.**



The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones – Gustave Dore – 1866

**Verse 1:** “The hand of the LORD was on me” The Bible is God’s Word. The prophets did not prophesy from their own imaginations or ideas. They delivered a message from God. Why is this important to remember when we read and listen to the Bible?

How does this truth encourage you to get into personal Bible Study?

**Verse 2-3:** A valley “full of bones,” “very dry bones.” In verse 9 we hear that they were “slain.” You picture a valley with *slain* covering the valley floor from a battle months or years ago. These were the deadest of the dead. When God asks the prophet if they can live, why is the prophet’s answer appropriate?

**Verse 4-6:** God commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the dead bones. They are to *hear the word of the LORD!* God will do the impossible. He promises to make the dead hear and come back to life. What would the result of this gift to the bones be?

**Verses 7-10:** God used a prophet to do this miraculous work of delivering his Word, and a vast army came to life. Where is the power from?

How can this truth embolden us sinner-saints to share the Good news of Jesus’ cross and empty tomb and sins forgiven in him with others?

**Verses 11-13:** We don’t let our imaginations run wild as we approach Scripture. We “Let Scripture interpret Scripture.” God’s Word is clear. God tells Ezekiel the meaning of what he saw and did at the LORD’s command. Who was this message for?

How were they feeling and why?

When did these people “slain” and “cut off” in Babylon return to Jerusalem?

These words are fitting for Pentecost Sunday. On Pentecost we see Peter and the apostles proclaim God’s Word to *spiritually* dead people. The Holy Spirit by God’s grace brings 3000 to faith and spiritual life through the Word.

**Verse 14:** How will God’s track record in keeping his saving promises here and at Pentecost revive you and bring you hope when you feel:

Alone?

Rejected, “*slain*,” and without hope?