

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SERMON OUTLINE -- MARCH 13, 2022

Dry Bones

(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

INTRODUCTION: *That old gospel song --*
“Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones”

I. THE PROPHET EZEKIEL, IN A VISION, WAS IN A VALLEY OF DRY BONES (Ezekiel 37)

- A. The vision was that of the utter destruction & hopelessness of Israel
- B. Imagine yourself in one of the large military cemeteries with all the white crosses . . .
- C. The voice of God asks – *“Can these bones live?”* (v. 3)

II. CAN ‘DRY BONES’ LIVE... CAN DEFEAT & HOPELESSNESS TURN INTO VICTORY & HOPE?

- A. Ezekiel says – *“O LORD God, You Know...”* (v. 4)
- B. We would say – *“I don’t see a way, God... maybe You know a way.”*
- C. In his vision, Ezekiel saw the ‘dry bones’ come back to life with flesh & blood
- D. There was hope for Israel & there is hope for us... even when all seems hopeless

(please turn over)

III. WHAT IS GOD'S 'DRY BONES' MESSAGE TO US TODAY?

- A. Who of us have not “stood beside the grave” of our hopes & dreams?
- B. We cry out with Ezekiel – *“Can these ‘bones’ live?”*
- C. Along with Ezekiel, we are realistic – sometimes, humanly speaking, there is no hope
- D. But with Ezekiel we hope in God – *“O LORD God, You know...”* (Matthew 19:26, Luke 1:37)
- E. And with Ezekiel, we do what God asks & watch Him take care of all the details (vv. 5-10)

IV. GOD INDEED PROVIDES 'BREATH FOR DRY BONES'!

- A. He gives us ‘breath’, ‘spirit’ ... *“a second wind”!*
- B. In the death & resurrection of our Lord Jesus, we ‘dry bones’ are given new life! (Romans 8:11)
- C. Our God specializes in hope, in new life, in *“second winds”*

CONCLUSION: *“Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones...
hear the Word of the LORD!”*

Donate and Help Lutheran Pastors & Congregations in Ukraine

A number of Lutheran pastors and congregations in Ukraine are risking their lives and using their own finances and resources to help others and share Jesus during the war in Ukraine. Rev. Roland Syens was a member of our congregation many years ago and was a Lutheran Church-Canada missionary in Ukraine. He has been in contact with a number of pastors and you can read his report here:

<https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/day-10-of-russian-invasion/>

Lutheran Church-Canada is raising funds to assist the pastors. Please go to the LCC website at www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca to donate. One-half of the web page is a link for donations to Ukraine. Please be generous.