

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

March 22, 2026

“Can These Bones Live?”

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;
John 11:1-45

Today’s Big Idea

The Lectionary thread shows the Holy Spirit as the breathing animating life of God for us and in us and through us for the world!

Breath as Spirit

Understanding Holy Spirit as the breath of God/Jesus for us, in us, and through us

With breath, without breath

Lungs and the body

Filled with the Spirit: **Ephesians 5:18**

Breath, wind, Spirit/spirit, *ruach*, *pneuma*

Interchangeable terms: e.g. “giving up spirit” (**Matthew/John**) and “breathing his last” (**Mark/Luke**)

Breath and Word

Vocalization requires breath

Words incarnate breath

In this way we can think *words* as an interchangeable with *breath*

Breath and Word in Partnership in the Story of the Bible

General creation: **Genesis 1:2-3**; creation of humans: **Genesis 1:26 with 2:7**

Valley of the Dry Bones: **Ezekiel 37:1-4*** (9x *ruach*!): “*breath so that you can live*” **37:5,6,9,10**

Word-breath creates the form: **37:7-8**; Breath-Spirit animates the form with life: **37:9-10**

Jesus is the Word (**John 1:1**) who heals with words and breath: **Mark 7:34; John 11:43**

The “last Adam” became a “Life-giving Spirit”: **1 Corinthians 15:45**

Breathes (His Spirit) onto His disciples (and us): **John 20:22**

Note: once again He forms a Body with His words (the church) and breathes it into life!

Holy Spirit (Breath of God) and Us

For Us: Calls us into being (I am fearfully and wonderfully made: **Psalm 139:14**)

In Us: Makes us (really) alive in the deepest places of our being: **Romans 8:11***

Though Us: Invites us to CPR moments in a suffocating world

The CPR of word-breath: **John 15:26-27**

The CPR of presence in the model of Elijah (**1 Kings 17:21-22**) and Elisha (**2 Kings 4:34-35**)

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>	<i>Psalms 130</i>	<i>Romans 8:6-11</i>	<i>John 11:1-45</i>
<p>The valley where His spirit set me down was full of dry bones.</p> <p>3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." 7</p> <p>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.</p>	<p>Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!</p> <p>3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. 5 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.</p>	<p>6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.</p> <p>10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.</p>	<p>23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern?

March 29, 2026 - Palm Sunday - Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11