

REFLECTION

5th Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

Ezekiel 37:12-14

I am going to meditate on "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." "I will place my spirit within you, and you will live." This is a promise made by Ezekiel to those who feel demoralized, displaced, and hopeless. Israel isn't just hurting; they think their story is over. Their assessment is "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost." And into this hopelessness, God speaks with a promise: "I will open your graves."

This passage refers to more than just physical death. It encompasses every kind of "grave" we face, including depression, broken relationships, and a loss of faith or purpose. Similarly, sin enslaves us and leaves us feeling hopeless. We've all felt the sensation that something inside us has died. Nevertheless, God promises, "I will open your graves." God always takes a leading role in our Resurrection or regeneration. The second promise is this: I will place my spirit into you, and you will live. According to the Bible, life is more than just being alive; it is God's life or grace within us. Furthermore, God's spirit transforms dry bones into living beings, fear into bravery, and despair into hope. Thus, the challenge for us today is: Where are the "graves" in my life right now? What have I lost faith in? Where has my hope gone? What does it feel like when you go beyond healing and renewal?

Rather than resigning ourselves to words of despair—such as "It's over," "Nothing can change," or "This is how it will always be"—let us instead hold fast to the Lord's promise to open our tombs. God assures us, "I will instill my Spirit within you, and you will live." May this promise inspire us to embrace hope and trust in the renewal that only God can bring.