

Prophecy of Living Water Fourth Week of Lent Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:15 AM
Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16 (Jesus himself made quite a point of the fact that he is becoming now the temple and the sacrifice and by allusion also the priest of worship in Spirit and truth.)

“This water flows into the eastern district down upon the Arabah, and empties into the sea, the salt waters, which it makes fresh. Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh.”

This is a very interesting prophecy and imagery from the prophet Ezekiel. When I was in Israel we went to Masada, which is a fortress near the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is to the east and north; Jerusalem is to the west and north. The ground is so arid it looks like it hasn't rained in five hundred years, and maybe it hasn't. But there are gullies, so it rained at some point in the history of that area. The gullies made me think of this prophecy, because it **prophesied that water will well up from within the temple and flow to the sea, which is the Dead Sea,** making it alive. It's now so salty nothing lives in it. This says, well, when the water comes it will make it live.

Now this is actually quite a prophecy because it is a way of speaking about the **living water that is an experience of God.** That's what living water means in the idiom of Scripture. And of course it is **a symbol of Baptism,** because Baptism brings life out of death. It is the womb of eternal life. So **Ezekiel** uses this most improbable, most unlikely scenario of water, freshwater, filling up the Dead Sea and making everything alive as the **symbol of the coming age of the Messiah.** And when you think about the fact that **Jesus himself made quite a point of the fact that he is becoming now the temple and the sacrifice and by allusion also the priest of worship in Spirit and truth.** It is all very powerful imagery that we might spend some time with today.