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EMPTY EMPTY HANDS

April 29, 30, and May 3, 2017

When it seems as though we never have enough, the empty tomb is a reminder of how rich we really are. Look at all the spiritual blessings that you have right now in Christ Jesus. Such contemplation produces contentment in the midst of whatever life situation we find ourselves in.

BELLS AND WELCOME

HYMN 147, vv. 1-3, 5

Like the Golden Sun Ascending

M In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, the risen Lord, who walked and talked with the two on the road to Emmaus, walks and talks with us today.
C **He still opens the Scriptures to us, so we may know the truth about ourselves – how we need a Savior – and the greater truth about how he fills that need, as well as every need.**
M Having him beside us today enables us to come before God in humble honesty and in grateful expectation as we confess our sins.
C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY



M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory to God

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer, re-

ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God in the

high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For

you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the

Lord, you a-lone are the Most High,

Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the

glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. Glo-ry to God in the

high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, you have made many powerful and beautiful promises to us.
- C **These promises speak peace and hope to our hearts as we journey through life in a world of sorrow and pain.**
- M Help us believe that you will keep every one of these promises,
C **so that we live in joyful confidence, giving witness to the world around us that you are good and worthy of our trust.**
- M We pray in Jesus' name. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
C **and forever. Amen**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 24:10-21, Bible page 1120

Paul defends his ministry and message before Governor Felix.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (*Luke 24:32*)

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35, Bible page 1060

Jesus appears to two of his disciples on Easter Sunday as they sadly make their way home to Emmaus. As Jesus speaks with them and opens up their understanding of the Scripture, they receive new hope and clearer insight into who Jesus is and what his death and resurrection mean for their lives.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON

Ephesians 1:3-14, Bible page 1173

*Pastor David Kuehl*OFFERTORY (*Sunday 9:15 am*)**Entrust Your Days and Burdens,**
St. Paul's Lutheran School Junior Choir

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY HOLY HOLY



ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -

ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

OH CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see Communion note on page 9.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 148

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone—who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON



In peace, Lord, you let your
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

CLOSING PRAYER

- M Jesus, you came to us today and poured out the riches of your love and grace in your Word and Sacrament.
- C **In you we truly have all that we need, and more.**
- M As we go out into the world, empower us as your forgiven children to live to your glory.
- C **May the light of your love shine in us and through us.**
- M We bless you now and forevermore.
- C **Amen.**

BLESSING

- M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGANIST *Kathy Bremer*

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room with a new class beginning May 23. Register on the back of your Connection Card.

If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of Christian Worship to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pews in the right center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.

Your Ministerial Staff

Office (414) 422-0320

Pastor Jeffrey Bonack	Ext. 119	jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0501
Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons	Ext. 118	sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor David Kuehl	Ext. 121	dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 679-1393
Mr. Dan Lippert, BA	Ext. 120	dlippert@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 232-4458
Mr. Phil Loescher	Ext. 123	ploescher@stpaulmuskego.org	(262) 305-8769
Dr. Joel Nelson	Ext. 145	jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320
Pastor Peter Panitzke	Ext. 122	ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 350-1436
Mrs. Sally Wallner	Ext. 294	swallner@stpaulmuskego.org	(414) 422-0320



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For the week of May 1, 2017

MON	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Walking Club (Trinity Gym) <i>The Story Bible Study</i> (Grace Room)
TUE	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm	Ministerial Team Meeting Ladies Bible Study (Grace Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Handbell Rehearsal
WED	4:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Public School Confirmation Instruction Classes Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Faith Room) Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
THURS	6:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room) Quilting Fellowship (Grace Room) Walking Club (Trinity Gym) Stoney Creek Bible Study (Stoney Creek Adult Community) Confirmation Written Examination Review (Grace Room) The Bridge and Contemporary Band Practice
SAT	8:00 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room) Traditional Worship Service Open Forum (Grace Room)
SUN		Confirmation Sunday 7:45 am Traditional Worship Service 9:15 am Traditional Worship Service 9:15 am Grace Room Bible Study 9:15 am Kids Club and Boost Youth Ministries 9:45 am The Bridge Communion 10:15 am The Bridge 10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

Multimedia Ministry

- **TV:** *Time of Grace*, Sundays at 5:30 am on UPtv, 7:00 am on WBME, and 10:30 am on WDJT. Thursdays at 3:30 pm on TBN. For a complete broadcast schedule, visit timeofgrace.org/waystowatch or call the *Time of Grace* office at (800) 661-3311.
 - **Radio:** Lutheran Radio Church Service, Sundays at 7:00 am on JOY1340 AM
 - **Online:** Podcast and video sermons at www.stpaulmuskego.org and www.thebridgemuskego.org
 - **Live Streaming:** The Bridge, Sundays at 10:15 am at www.thebridgemuskego.org
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ST. PAUL'S NEWS

YOUTH CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, May 7, thirty-five youth members, who have received thorough instruction in the truths of God's Word in Confirmation Class, will have the opportunity to publicly confess their faith before the church in both the 9:15 and 10:45 am worship services. We as a congregation pray that the Holy Spirit will preserve these youth in their faith to the end of their days. In order for you to determine which service you may want to attend, below are the confirmands listed by the worship service in which they will confirm their faith.

9:15 am

*Kyle Blomdahl
Rose Bonack
Elizabeth Eilertson
Evan Eirschele
Isabella Garofani
Alex Gawlitta
Emma Johnson
Isabelle Kennedy
Christopher King
Gwendolyn Kolesari
Samuel Lanham
Caden Lawonn
Aaron Longhenry
Alexis Manzara
David Rynders
Matthew Scholbe
Allison Veley*



10:45 am

*Kyle Aggen
Luke Bara
Jacob Becker
Jaiden Blundon
Molly Mars
Audrey Mazziotti
Nathan Miller
Sydney Mueller
Arie Proite
Alexis Randolph
Caleb Schneider
Elijah Shevey
Alaina Tomczak
Melissa Tonn
Kennedy Vahovick
Isabella Veit
Alexis Weber
Walker Witzlsteiner*

OPEN FORUMS – ALL ARE INVITED

Open forums are being held Sunday, April 30, at 9:15 am in the Faith Room and at noon in the Grace Room. If you can't make it today, three open forums will be held next week - Saturday, May 6, at 6:00 pm in the Faith Room, Monday, May 8, at 10:15 am at Stoney Creek Adult Community, and Tuesday, May 9, at 12:30 pm in the Grace Room (at the OWLS meeting). The annual ministry plan and resolutions will be presented for discussion. The Ministry Board will consider suggestions made at these open forums, and if necessary adjust the ministry plan and resolutions before the annual voters' meeting on May 18.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

The annual voters' meeting will be Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 pm, in the Grace Room. At this meeting the \$3.5 million annual ministry plan will be presented for approval, as well as three resolutions to amend the bylaws and seven resolutions to designate grants from the Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Fund. Elections will be held for four positions on the seven-member Ministry Board, the congregation's governing board. A copy of the ministry plan, the resolutions, nominations, and staff reports are in the Messenger distributed after the service today.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

If you have small children, you might appreciate being able to focus on the sermon without interruption. We have a staffed nursery every Sunday during the 9:15 and 10:45 am services in the east wing of the church. A silent pager system allows childcare providers to alert you to any need your child has. Ask a worship host for directions.

FUNERAL

Merle Johnson, born June 28, 1927, entered eternal life with his Savior on Monday, April 24, 2017. The visitation for Merle will be held at St. Paul's on Sunday, April 30, from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm with the funeral immediately following. May God bless and keep Merle's loved ones in his care.

HOSPITALIZED

Dorothy Bucholtz is in hospice care at St. Ann's Nursing Home. Lois Guhr is at Brookfield Rehab and Nancy Rindfleisch has transferred to Mukwonago Linden Grove. Richard Krebs is at St. Luke's. Marvin Pellmann has returned home.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following individuals in their time of need: Mary Ann Boldt, Dawn Brown, David Burkowitz, Jodie Crosby, Sharon Dreyer, Shelly Eggert, Namine Eiche, Brittany Gillespie, Daniel Holtz, Dawn Jahns, Connie Johnson, Sandra Merfeld, Sonia Neuberger, Jeanne Steinbrecher, and Jake Strande.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

999 attended worship services last week.

MR. JUSTIN WALZ CALL DECISION

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

After much prayerful consideration, the Lord has led me to return the call to serve at Siloah, and continue my ministry at St. Paul's. My family and I want to thank all of you for the many kind thoughts, conversations and prayers on our behalf. Please keep Siloah in your prayers as they seek to fill their vacancy, and as they bring the saving Gospel to a neighborhood that seeks a place of hope and security. I look forward to continuing to serve here at St. Paul's.

Your Brother in Christ,
Justin Walz

DIVINE CALLS

St. Paul's Spanish Teacher Ms. Kristen Miller has declined her calls to serve at Christ - St. Peter Lutheran School in Milwaukee and Siloah Lutheran School in Milwaukee.

St. Paul's member, Mrs. Taryn Volbrecht, has received a call to our Lutheran elementary school to teach one of the two kindergarten classes for the 2017/2018 school year.

St. Paul's member and former School Administrator Mr. Skip Bremer has a call to Salem Lutheran School in Stillwater, MN, to be principal and teach upper grades - departmentalized. (Mr. Bremer is the husband of our 4K Teacher Mrs. Kathy Bremer.)

Please share your Christian counsel with Taryn and Skip as you feel led to do and keep their deliberations in your prayers.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

FOLLOWING THE PROMISE – JOIN THE CLASS MAY 23

1 Peter 3:15 says, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Do you feel prepared to do this? With the many social issues facing us today, talking about our faith does not always come easy. However, the Bible has the answers, and this course will help you find them. Have your questions answered as you walk through the truths of Christianity and the foundations of what our church teaches. This study also prepares you for membership in our church. A new class begins May 23. Pastor Pete Panitzke will be leading the 15-week course Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the Faith Room. Register by marking the back of your Connection Card.

HELP WITH READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Next fall Pastor Panitzke would like to offer a Bible study similar to *The Story* that he is currently facilitating. The 30-week course will take you through selected portions of the Bible, taking you through the entire Bible story in chronological order. Minimum class size is 50 people; maximum is 70 people. The time of the study is yet to be determined. Express your interest on the Connection Card.

NEW GRACE ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Christ is the true center of our salvation. Because of his death and resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life with him. Since Christ first loved us in this way, it is now our joy to take up our own crosses daily and follow him. Join Mr. Jon Eiche as he leads the study *The Theology of the Cross* on Sundays, May 14 through July 9, at 9:15 am. This study is based on the excellent book of the same name written by retired WELS Professor Daniel Deutschlander.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION

Join 1000 voices in praising the Savior of the Nations at the LWMS annual convention in Orlando, Florida, June 22-25. Meet our church body's missionaries from Russia, India, Hong Kong, St. George, and Utah. Visit the convention website at www.lwms.org for registration materials.

SOCIAL SECURITY PLANNING SEMINAR - MONDAY

Thrivent Financial Consultant and St. Paul's member Michael Meyer, FIC, invites you to a workshop covering strategies for maximizing your Social Security benefits. The workshop will be held in the Faith Room Monday, May 1, at 3:00 and 6:30 pm. More information is on the Grace Room bulletin board.

CHAPEL CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Join the St. Paul's Chapel Choir! The Chapel Choir sings for worship about once a month and meets for rehearsal on Wednesdays for about an hour at 6:30 pm in the Faith Room. Any questions can be directed to Pastor Jeffrey Bonack at jbonack@stpaulmuskego.org or Darik Mischke at (920) 344-2330.

NINETY-THREE LIVES SAVED

The blood drive held on our campus on April 24 was a great success. 31 pints of blood were collected which will be used to save 93 lives. Thank you to everyone who supported this life-saving cause.

ONLINE GIVING

If you bank and pay bills online, consider giving online: 20% of offerings are already given online. Go to StPaulMuskego.org or use the QR code at right.



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

THE FINAL STRETCH FOR KIDS CLUB AND BOOST

Kids Club and Boost are in their final weeks before summer break. Parents are invited to attend on Sunday, May 21, when both Kids Club and Boost will have closing activities to celebrate the year. Boost will also engage in reflection and evaluation of the past year and teen ministry at St. Paul's. Contact Dr. Nelson with questions about our children's ministry at (414) 422-0320, ext. 145 or jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.

GRADUATES – SHARE YOUR PLAN

St. Paul's will be celebrating our class of 2017 teens who are graduating from junior and senior high school. Please forward your plans for after graduation as soon as possible to jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 145.

CONGRATULATIONS ST. PAUL'S MEMBER ADAM VOLBRECHT

Adam Volbrecht coaches the Wisconsin Lutheran College Warriors golf team, which just won the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference championship. They are the first team to three-peat in the 11-year history of the league. The Warriors advance to their third straight NCAA Championship Tournament May 16-19 at Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

SAFETY CITY - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADES 6-12

All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to volunteer to be the teen staff for Safety City hosted by St. Paul's this summer. If you like working with children, this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. 8th graders may use this as one of their two service projects. Forms are available at the Welcome Center.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL WORKDAYS

Students are available to work the weekends of Saturday, May 6 and Saturday, May 13 to raise money for missions. If you would like a group of students to come to your home to help with indoor or outdoor spring cleaning, please contact Mitchel Hopp at workday@wlhs.org or (414) 501-3921. Scheduling is done on a first come, first serve basis.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL CAR WASH

Get your car sparkling clean at Wisconsin Lutheran High School's car wash this Sunday, April 30, from 12:00 until 4:00 pm in the back parking lot of the school. All donations will go to support the high school's mission project to build an aquaponics system in Zambia, Africa.

NURSERY STAFF OPENING FOR THE BRIDGE

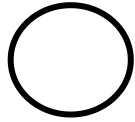
The Bridge service has grown to the point of needing to hire nursery staff each week. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Sally Wallner at swallner@stpaulmuskego.org.

SOEL HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our School of Early Learning is in need of volunteers to make lunch for the little ones on Mondays and Fridays from 10:45 am until noon. Please contact SOEL Director Kim Neubauer at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or kneubauer@stpaulmuskego.org for more information.

INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES OFFICE MANAGER OPENING

Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries, located in Wauwatosa, is hiring an office manager. Institutional Ministries ministers to people living in correctional facilities, drug and alcohol treatment centers, hospitals, mental health centers, and extended care facilities, and also offers post institutional support. More information about this job opening is available on the Grace Room bulletin board.



GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

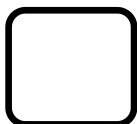
Life application materials for us in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

Nothing in My Hand I Bring

1. Thomas Edison said, “Restlessness is discontent, and discontent is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure.”
 - What do you think Edison was trying to say?
 - Why is it no surprise that a guy like Thomas Edison had this philosophy?
 - Are restlessness and discontent synonymous? Explain.
 - What is making you restless/discontent today?
 - How could your small group help?
2. Read Ephesians 1:3-14.
 - List the truths from this text that should still any restless, discontented feelings in a believer’s heart.
 - Why should being chosen before the creation of the world (vs. 4) bring you restlessness relief?
 - Why should God’s motivation for adopting you destroy any discontent you feel?
 - Count up how many times in this text there is a reference to Christ. Why this redundancy?
 - How would you express to a “seeker” why God doesn’t pick people the way people do?
3. There is a line from the hymn *Rock of Ages* that goes, “Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.”
 - How do these words relate to the empty hands, empty tomb emphasis of this sermon?
 - React: Bringing empty hands to Jesus prevents bringing empty hands to Jesus.
4. Read Ephesians 1:13-14.
 - What does having a “seal of approval” mean for the thing it’s given to?
 - Why is “marked in him with a seal” even better?
5. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.”
 - What examples can you share from your own life that prove Augustine correct?
 - Why is the still, contented, and hopeful life you lead a great witness to so many today?

PRAY

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.
Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy law’s demands; Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

Empty

+ Our Empty Hands Are Full of God's Grace +

Ephesians 1:3-14 (Bible page 1173)

Introduction: Adoption

I. God chose us to be his own.

- A. This choice occurred “before the c _____” (v. 4).
- B. This choice was “in accordance with his p _____” (v. 5).
- C. Imagine if God c _____ as we c _____ (teams, friends, honor role).
- D. God chose us—not by m _____, but only because of his g _____.

2. God redeemed us to be his own.

- A. Pete the Agnostic: “God will accept me just the way I am.”
- B. We are acceptable to God only “in C _____” (11 times).
- C. Election and God's plan of salvation are i _____.

B. God called us to be his own.

A. A brief review of God's ALL-ENCOMPASSING plan of salvation:

In I _____ God c _____ us from eternity.

In C _____ God accomplished our s _____.

In our time of grace God included a p _____ p _____ that would bring us to f _____ in Jesus (vv. 11-13a).

B. We can be sure that God has called us.

Our faith is God's s _____ of o _____ on us (v. 13b).

Our faith is a d _____ guaranteeing our inheritance in heaven (v. 14)..

Conclusion: What amazing grace! Rejoice in your richness in Christ.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Psalm 23, John 10:1-10, and Hebrews 13:20-21 to prepare for next week's worship on *Empty: Empty Life*.
- **Memorize** from today's sermon Ephesians 1:7 – “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
- **Make a list** of all the ways you've been made rich because of Jesus' cross and empty tomb. Begin with the forgiveness of your sins, life, and salvation.
- **Pray** for the Holy Spirit to fill you with the wisdom and courage necessary to witness boldly to the faith he has worked in your heart.