

With Empty Hands and Empty Hearts

(Choral Anthem Version)

Genevieve Glen, OSB

Scot Crandal

INTRO Warmly (♩ = ca. 72)

Keyboard

mp

VERSE 1: Sopranos & Altos (or Solo)

mp

1. With emp-ty hands and emp-ty hearts We come be-fore you,

1. Lord. No frank - in-cense or myrrh have we, No

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1. gold can we af - ford.

rit.

rit.

VERSE 2: Tenors & Basses (or Solo)

2. We bring in - stead our ach - ing want, Thin cries of

mp *a tempo*

a tempo

2. hol - low need, The des - ert

2. waste - lands of the soul: With these a - lone we

VERSE 3

S *mf*
A

3. Have mer - cy on our un - be - lief, For - give our love - less
plead.

T
B *mf*



3. ways, Take pity on our hope - less-ness: Come,



PREVIEW COPY

3. mend our thread - bare days. *cresc.* days, our days.

3. mend our thread - bare days *cresc.*

cresc.

VERSE 4

Descant *f*

4. Ac - cept our prayer of

Broadly unison f

4. Ac - cept, O Christ, these voice-less words, Our prayer of

unison f

Broadly f

4. emp - ti - ness; Fill our bar - ren - ness with

4. emp - ti - ness; Fill all our bar - ren -

4. love, with fruit - ful - ness, Bless

4. ness with love, Bless prayer with fruit - ful - ness, Bless

rit. *mp*

rit. *S mp*

rit. *T mp*

rit. *B mp*

rit. *mp*



4. prayer with fruit - ful - ness.

4. prayer with fruit - ful - ness.

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system is a single vocal line in G major (one sharp) with lyrics. The second system is a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The third system is a full piano accompaniment in G major, featuring a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

PREVIEW COPY

With Empty Hands and Empty Hearts

(Congregational Version)

Genevieve Glen, OSB

Scot Crandal

VERSES 1, 2, 4 (♩ = ca. 66)

G D7/G

1. With emp - ty hands _____ and emp - ty hearts _____ We come be -
 2. We bring in - stead _____ our ach - ing want, _____ Thin cries of
 4. Ac - cept, O Christ, _____ these voice - less words, _____ Our prayer of

Keyboard

G Bm C Am7 G/B

1. fore you, Lord. No frank - in - cense or myrrh have we, No
 2. hol - low need, The des - ert waste - lands of the soul: With
 4. emp - ti ness; Fill all our bar - ren - ness with love, Bless

Gm/Bb 1, 2 D/A C/G D/A 1: D.C. 2: to Verse 3

1. gold can we af - ford.
 2. these a - lone we plead.
 4. prayer with fruit - ful -

1, 2 1: D.C. 2: to Verse 3

Final
D/A C/G D/G C/G G *Fine*

4. ness, Bless prayer with fruit - ful - ness.

Final *molto rit.* *Fine*

VERSE 3
C/G D7/G Am/G G Bm G/B

3. Have mer - cy on our un - be - lief, For - give our love - less —

Esus4 Em Am G/B

3. ways, — Take pit - y on our hope - less - ness: Come,

Am7/D D/A *D.C. al fine*

3. mend our thread - bare days.

D.C. al fine

With Empty Hands and Empty Hearts

(Choral Anthem Version)

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

Scot Crandal

INTRO *Warmly* (♩ = ca. 72)

VERSE 1

VERSE 2

VERSE 3

VERSE 4

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Note: This is to be used only with the Choral Anthem version, and is not compatible with the Congregational version.

Composer Notes

This setting of Benedictine Sister Genevieve Glen’s humble, heartfelt text is presented in two ways for maximum practicality.

The choral anthem version provides an arrangement for keyboard (organ or piano), SATB choir, descant, and solo instrument. It begins simply then adds textures and harmonic interest. The fourth verse begins with the thought-provoking phrase, “Accept, O Christ, these voiceless words...” with the choir at full voice, underscoring an earnest desire to connect with God.

The congregational version allows for flexibility, perhaps with the first and/or second verse being sung by a cantor or choir. The descant from the choral anthem version could also be added during the fourth verse.

—*Scot Crandal*

Textwriter Notes

Scripture References

Matthew 5:3

Verse 1: Matthew 2:11

Verse 3: Mark 9:24

Verse 4: Philippians 2:6–8; Mark 15:34

Carmelite poet Jessica Powers inspired this text with her lines: “If you have nothing...lift up your emptiness!” (*If You Have Nothing*). This hymn is the prayer of the poor in spirit who have nothing to offer God—no wealth, no virtue, no achievements, nothing but our need. We dare to offer it in confidence because Christ himself chose to share our poverty when he took on human flesh capable of hunger, thirst, and the dreadful abandonment he felt on the cross. Through him, our very emptiness can bear fruit!

—*Genevieve Glen, OSB*

Assembly Edition

WITH EMPTY HANDS AND EMPTY HEARTS

Scot Crandal

Verses 1, 2, 4

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1. fore you, Lord. No frank - in - cense or myrrh have we, No
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 4. emp - ti - ness; Fill all our bar - ren - ness with love, Bless

1. gold can we af - ford.
 2. these a - lone we plead.
 4. prayer with fruit - ful -

Final

4. ness, Bless prayer with fruit - ful - ness.

Verse 3

3. Have mer - cy on our un - be - lief, For - give our love - less ways, Take

3. pit - y on our hope - less - ness: Come, mend our thread - bare days.

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