With Empty Hands and Empty Hearts

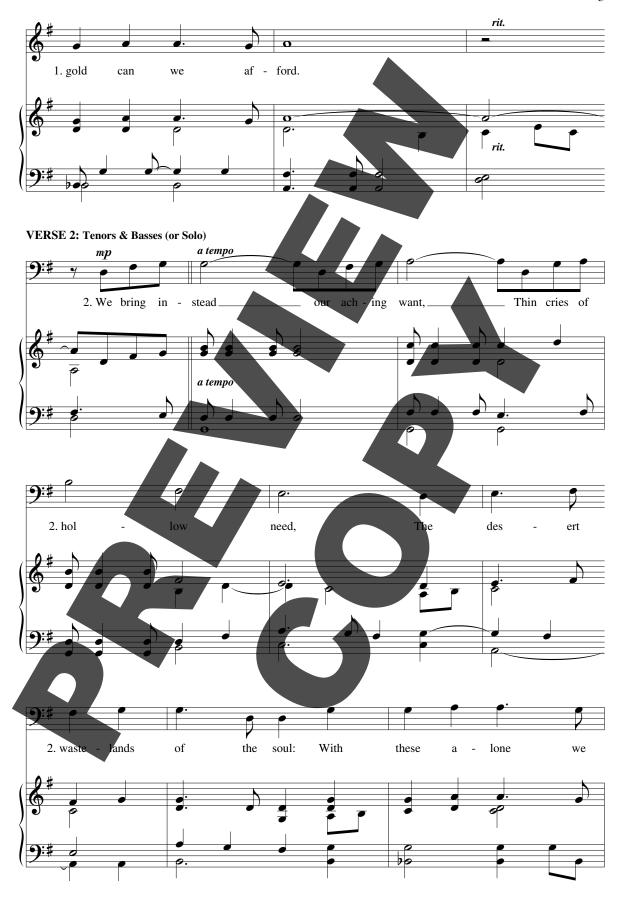
(Choral Anthem Version)



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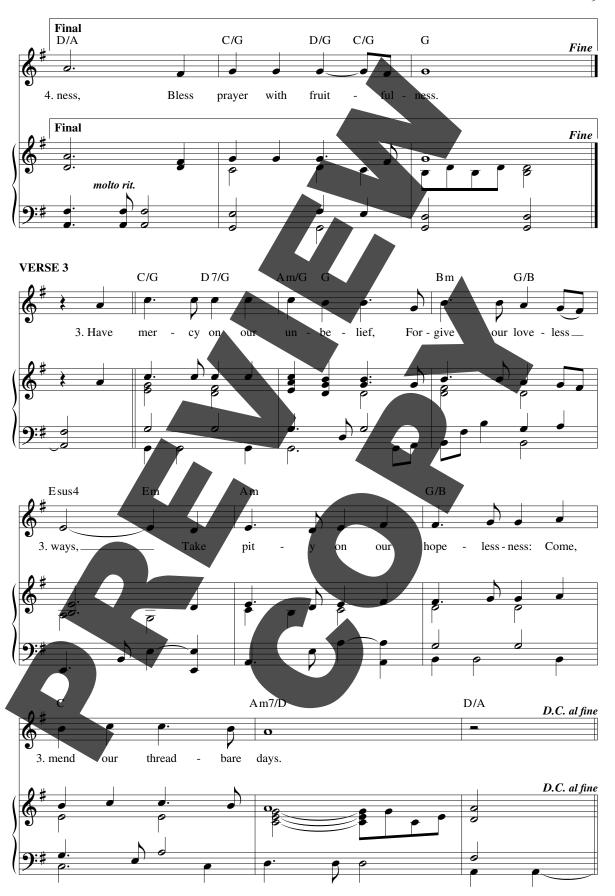






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(Choral Anthem Version) SOLO INSTRUMENT in C Scot Crandal VERSE 1 VERSE 2 VERSE 3 VERSE 4

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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

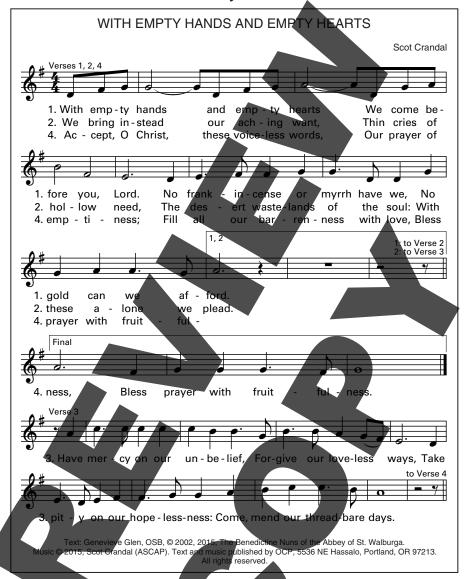
Verse 1: Matthew 2:11 Verse 3: Mark 9:24

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



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