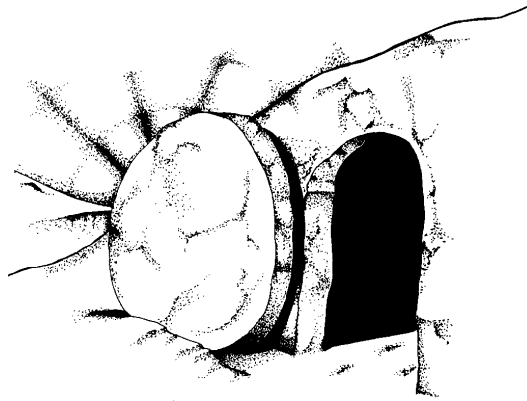




## Pastor's Page



### Empty But Full

Emptiness often signifies defeat, discouragement, or even despair.

An empty cupboard may mean little ones will go hungry. An empty gas tank may mean you'll miss an important appointment. An empty heart is a heart without hope or joy.

Empty is the opposite of full; and most of us, if we had the choice, would pick full over empty any time

There was one day, however, when empty proved to be vastly superior to full. It was a Sunday morning long ago. Several of the women followers of Jesus had gone to the graveyard to anoint his body with spices. They were amazed to discover that the guard was gone, the stone was rolled away, and the tomb was—empty.

Empty meant that death had been unable to hold King Jesus in its grasp. Empty meant that the tomb could not contain the Lord of life. Empty meant that he was not dead but alive; that the curse of sin had been vanquished by the Son's sacrifice; that now and forever after the women's hearts would be "filled with joy" (Matthew 28:8).

In just a few days you and I will have the privilege of celebrating once again that Sunday morning of long ago. Like the first followers of Jesus, we will peer into the tomb. But don't be disappointed to find it—empty. "He is not here. He is risen, just as he said!" "He lives! He lives, who once was dead! He lives, my ever-living head!" So let us gather together on that day of days, the Day of the Empty Tomb. Let us gather with hearts full of joy and praise and hope and love. Come, that you may be filled with the new life of your risen and living Lord.

In Jesus' love,

Pastor Marc Schroeder

*"I have come that you may have life, and have it **to the full.**" –John 10:10*