



## **We Are Full!** Devotion

[Please provide: whiteboard and markers or poster board and markers, hymnals]

*“... Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” (Isaiah 6:3b)*

Imagine that there is a glass of water on a table in front of you. It is an eight-ounce glass which contains four ounces of water. Now, here’s a question for you: is the glass half-full or half-empty?

Our broken, earthly world reminds us that the top of the glass is EMPTY. “Hurry,” the evil one whispers in our ears, “and fill up your glass.” When we feel the emptiness of this troubled world, we try almost anything and everything to fill it. We shop. We chase that perfect house, outfit, or car. We strive for the top position at work and in our career, no matter the costs. We work to get our children into the best school. We try to fill the emptiness with drugs or alcohol. Idols creep into our lives like social media or sports or gym time beyond healthy goals. Loneliness also empties us. The widow feels alone as the other side of her bed is empty. The grumpy old man sits at an empty table every day. We pack our schedules, but the calendar’s events leave us drained instead of refreshed. This world offers empty gas tanks, pantries, bank accounts, lungs when we want to run, wombs. Oh yes, we know all about being empty. All of us.

Now look closer at your own reflection in that glass of water. Sometimes, we are not just empty, but we also empty others. We speak harsh words or think unkind thoughts. How many times have we already broken the Ten Commandments today? Empty. During Lent we reflect on our own sins which took Jesus to the cross. These sins might include poor stewardship of time or money, not trusting God to provide for our needs, broken promises, even broken vows, not guarding our hearts from that obscene movie, saying that bad word that just slipped so easily, wanting something our neighbor has. The list of sins that empties us and others goes on, and you know your own heart.

Yes, this world offers troubles and so much “empty.” So how are we to be filled? We cannot do it ourselves.

Thanks be to God, Jesus knows our hearts. But, He does not leave us broken and empty. Instead, He saves us.

In God’s unique plan, He has a special perspective on the half-full, half-empty glass of water. He reminds us that “empty” is not always a bad thing: as He shows us the empty tomb! Out of His immense love for us, God sent His Son and let Him die so that you and I may have life. Though we are empty, broken, and even dead in our sins; Jesus has fulfilled-the Law for us. He took our place on the cross that we deserved because of our sins. Then, on that glorious Easter morning, the greatest miracle ever occurred: Jesus rose from the dead! Through Christ, we are given mercy, grace, and a new, eternal life (Psalm 23:6). We are forgiven and renewed. We go from empty and are made FULL by our loving and merciful God.

So just what is it to be **full**?

Print a large letter “F” on the whiteboard or poster board. Print the word “Forgiven” next to it with a different colored marker.

**F:** Forgiven. Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. His resurrection that we celebrate on Easter (and really every Sunday of the year) proves that He is victorious over sin, death, and the devil. Remember that water in the glass? When we are baptized, simple water combined with the power of God’s Word washes the sin from our hearts. We are rescued from sin, death, and the devil. We are given a new, eternal life. We now have hope, and a purpose. We are forgiven! We are adopted as heirs into God’s family. Every day, even when we are empty, the Holy Spirit renews and refills us so we can love and serve our forgiving God.

Below the letter “F,” print a large letter “U” on the whiteboard or poster board. Print the word “United” next to it with a different colored marker.

**U:** United. Romans 6:3–4 reminds us, *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.* Through His death and resurrection, we are united by faith with Jesus our Savior. Whenever we are empty, Jesus invites us to come to His table to eat and drink the bread and wine, His body and blood, given for you for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26–28). Through the Lord’s Supper, Jesus strengthens our faith and draws us closer to Him. We are also united by our common faith to the other individuals who partake of Holy Communion. United with Christ and with one another, our risen Lord leads us to love and serve Him and other people.

Below the letter “U,” print a large letter “L” on the whiteboard or poster board. Print the word “Life” next to it with a different colored marker.

**L:** Life. Jesus Himself tells us, *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”* (John 10:10b). Other Bible translations use the words “to the full” in place of “abundantly”. Our Triune God is all about life. God gives us physical life. Through His Word and the water of Holy Baptism, God graciously gives us eternal life. Jesus reassures us, *“... I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die”* (John 11:25–26).

Below the letter “L,” print another large letter “L” on the whiteboard or poster board. Print the word “Love” next to it with a different colored marker.

**L:** Love! Jesus says, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). You are so dearly loved that God sent His one and only Son to suffer and die so that you might live! And what should our response be to God making us truly full? He commands us to *“... love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another”* (John 13:34). We once were broken glasses, or cracked pots (Jeremiah 18:1-6), that have been reassembled by God Himself. He has reassembled us so well that now we are good for carrying His love to others. Yes, we were empty, but have been made saints through Christ; holy in the sight of the only Holy One. His love overflows through our now ‘full’-filled lives.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, may our whole lives reflect that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are FULL instead of empty.

**Sing:** “Holy, Holy, Holy,” verse 1. LSB 507, TLH 246. LW 168

**Prayer:** Lord God, our holy, almighty, loving Father. We know that, on our own, we are unholy. We are empty. We hurt others. We are sorry, Lord. Thank You for not leaving us empty. Thank You for sending Jesus as the fulfillment in our place. Thank You for forgiveness; for Your means of grace through which You give us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Thank You for loving us beyond our emptiness. Thank You for filling our lives with Your love, hope, joy, and peace. Please be with all those who are still empty. Help us to show them Your love. Help us, now made holy in Your sight through the death and resurrection of Your holy, most precious Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to continue to serve You with gladness. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

From Empty to Full  
*Written by* Hannah Jackson, St. Louis, MO  
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