

Open Hands

You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Psalm 145:16

Family, as the church seasons of Lent and Easter have come and gone, I pray that the messages we heard and meditated upon would continue to feed and nourish us as we enter a new season--Pentecost! As we recall, we spent many weeks looking at the Hand of our Lord, didn't we? From creating and casting out demons to feedings, healings, and hands that were pierced, the above psalm, by King David, brings our attention once again to His hands—hands that are ***open***.

Now, I'm sure you've seen children holding objects so tightly, especially those small ones that you can't get them out of their grasp. Then, we have those stories about "Black Friday," in which shoppers grabbed that coveted item so firmly, that they ended up tearing or breaking the product. Of course, there's also that same old movie plot where the robber clings so tenaciously to the satchel of stolen jewelry that he fails to reach the getaway car in time.

What we have here are examples of hands that are closed, worldly examples (hint!), but the Lord through this psalmist is describing the opposite. Instead, he's writing about a God who gives freely; a real and living God with open hands: "You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." He bountifully showers us with His blessings. Life, health, clothing, food, friends, and family – the list goes on. He even

opened His hand to send His only Son, Jesus, into a selfish world of closed hands. Often rejected, Jesus nevertheless opened His hands to feed the multitudes and bless the children. He went to His capture, conviction, and cross with open hands of love. And still today, He continues to reach out to us through His Word and Sacrament ministry as the risen and ascended Lord.

No wonder the early Christians after Pentecost “were together and had everything in common” (Acts 2:44) and “selling their possessions and goods ... gave to anyone as he had need” (Acts 2:45). Forgiven and accepted as God’s children, they opened their hands to each other and to a world in need.

Thanks to our God with open hands, we too extend our hands to others. Received by Him because of Christ’s death, we welcome others. We give. We touch. We comfort. We include. We heal. And this list goes on too! Therefore, may our hands of faith always be open (opposite of the world) as we bring Christ to all people and help them grow in their Christian faith, life and service—yes, an extension of “His” hands to “satisfy the desires of every living thing.”

In Christ,
Pastor Seehafer

