

Hymns for Ash Wednesday
18 February 2026
 University Lutheran Church—Cambridge, Mass.

ELW 326 (Gathering Hymn)

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

ACS 920 (Hymn of the Day)

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945
Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585
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ELW 814 (Hymn during the Imposition of Ashes)

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.'

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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ELW 751 (Hymn during Communion 1)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The Lord Is My Song

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system's vocal line begins with the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*" The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system's vocal line begins with: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me. *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*" The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way,
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

ACS 1012 (Sending Hymn)

To You All Hearts Are Open

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three lines of music. The first line begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "To you all hearts are o - pen, to". The second line continues with: "you all de - sires known. To you there are no". The third line features a triplet of eighth notes over the words "se - crets, al - might - y" and concludes with "we come to you." The final measure of the third line is marked "Last time" and ends with a double bar line.

To you all hearts are o - pen, to

you all de - sires known. To you there are no

se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.

Text: John Tirro, b. 1966; based on an 11th cent. collect, tr. *Book of Common Prayer*

Music: ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, John Tirro

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