

**Hymn Facts**  
**Hymns for Young Hands – Early Elementary, Set D**  
**Created by Valerie Floeter**

**Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us - Page 2**

I love this melody. Do you? I think it is a very happy tune. Look at the hymn tune name. You can find the hymn tune names in this book by looking for the words in all capital letters. How would you say “Hyfrydol”? I was told that this word from the country of Wales is pronounced like “Hiff-ri-dol”, so you say the first part of the word with an accent. That word means “good cheer”, or “happiness”. What a perfect name!

**Crown Him with Many Crowns - Page 4**

Find the hymn tune for this song. That is a Greek word with means “crowns”. You can learn a lot of new words when you learn about hymns. This melody was written for these words. When Matthew Bridges first wrote these words, the stanzas were half-sized with only four lines in each stanza, and there were twelve stanzas! Parts of this hymn also were taken from a poem written by Godfrey Thring. They combined the two poems to create these words, but Mr. Bridges wrote most of it.

**The Head that Once Was Crowned - Page 6**

There are several interesting things about the melody of this hymn. Nobody knows if Jeremiah Clarke really wrote this melody. Some people say “No!” Find the hymn tune name. It is also called Nottingham, Birmingham, Brentford, New Borough, Buckingham and Greenock. How confusing! In most hymnals, you will see it called “St. Magnus”. This is the name a singing teacher gave it. He named it after a very famous church called “St. Magnus Martyr”, which was built in 1676 near the Old London Bridge. If you every sing “London Bridge Is Falling Down”, you could add a new stanza. “St. Magnus is Near by, Is Near by, Is Near by, St. Magnus Is Near by, My Fair Lady.”

**To Shepherds as They Watched by Night - Page 7**

Martin Luther wrote these words in 1543. We still have the paper that he wrote them on. He wrote about 37 hymns, but only two hymns still have their original paper so we can see his handwriting. That is a cool thing.

**Hail to the Lord’s Anointed - Page 8**

When James Montgomery wrote this poem in 1821, it had eight stanzas and was sung for Christmas in England. Is this hymn in the hymnal you use? My hymnal only uses four stanzas. How many does yours use?

**O Dearest Jesus - Page 9**

About 1000 years ago a man named Jean de Fecamp wrote a poem in Latin. It was only 9 lines long. Lutheran pastor Johann Heermann wrote his German poem in 1630. Many of de Fecamp’s thoughts are used, so maybe they inspired Pastor Heermann. The German poem ended up with 15 stanzas with four lines in each. It was much longer than the first one. Can you find who translated this German hymn into English? She was born in England but needed to live with her aunt in Germany when Catherine’s mother died.

She became so good at being able to read and speak German and then being able to write the words in English so they would fit the melody and still rhyme. That is a very tricky thing to do, but she was so good at it. I'm thankful that she used her language skills for serving God. That way we can sing this hymn too.

### **Alleluia! Jesus Lives - Page 10**

See the hymn tune name? It means "Peace to soothe". Sometimes this melody is also called "Easter Glory". Ludvig Lindeman wrote this melody. He was from the country of Norway and wrote about 200 hymn tunes. He started a music school. Someone said after Mr. Lindeman died that he "taught the Norwegian people to sing" because he did so much to encourage music in his country.

### **On Christ's Ascension I Now Build - Page 11**

There was a war in Germany from 1618 until 1648. Can you see why it is called the "Thirty Years War"? Many parts of Germany were destroyed. They ran out of food. They had terrible sicknesses too. Pastor Josua Wegelin worked at Augsburg, Germany during this war. Twice he had to quickly leave because the Swedish army was coming close. After the second time, he moved to Pressburg, Hungary but kept trying to take care of his congregation back in Augsburg. He wrote this hymn for them. He hoped it would be helpful in all of their troubles.

### **Come, Now, Almighty King - Page 12**

We don't know who wrote these words, but they were published in England in 1757, so they have been used for over 250 years. The melody was written by composer Felice de Giardini, who was a very famous Italian musician living in England by 1750. He was an incredible violinist and keyboardist, but complained a lot and had few friends. Sometimes this melody is called "Moscow" because the composer moved to Moscow, Russia and eventually died there.

### **Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus - Page 13**

The poem writer did a cool and interesting thing when she wrote this hymn. She created five stanzas and the first letter in each stanza put together spelled "J - E - S - U - S". That is fun to think about when designing a poem. In the book of Psalms in the Bible, there are psalms that use those special techniques for writing. Countess Ludämilia wrote this poem in about 1670. She wrote 206 hymns. She had many troubles in her life and died from measles at the age of 32, just before her wedding. Her cousin Emilie Juliane collected all of her hymns and published them about 15 years later. I'm glad Emilie did all of that work to put together Ludämilia's hymnal. I'm glad Ludämilia did all that work, too!

### **God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven - Page 14**

Look at the hymn tune name. It is from Wales and means "the livelong night" or "on length of night". It was not written as a melody for a hymn but for a regular song. The first time the melody was printed, it was for a voice solo with harp accompaniment. I bet that would be beautiful.

### **Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus - Page 16**

This hymn truly is a collection of different people's work. It started as two stanzas in 1757 when it was first printed in London, England. Three years later someone else published it but with four stanzas. Then 16 years later another person published it but skipped the second stanza and made many other small changes to the words. We don't know who wrote that first version. Sometimes when people are collecting hymns for a new hymnal, they need to make changes to it so the hymn clearly tells us about Jesus. Maybe that is why each new version changed lines or added stanzas.