

ABIDE WITH ME

HYMN 1 - EVENING / TRUST / FINAL THINGS

WHY THIS HYMN ENDURES

- Prayerful address to Christ in times of uncertainty
- Strong association with evening, death, and trust
- Personal devotion without sentimentality
- Widely known and deeply ingrained in congregational memory

WHERE THIS HYMN LIVES IN THE HYMNAL

“Abide with Me” appears as Hymn 1 in A Catholic Book of Hymns, where it serves as a hymn of trust and supplication suitable for a wide range of pastoral moments.

Supporting the Hymn Musically

- Calm, steady tempo (never rushed)
- Clear phrasing that supports breathing
- Works well with restrained organ accompaniment
- Often effective in quieter registrations

A chorale prelude on this hymn tune is available in the Organ Chorale Preludes companion volume for A Catholic Book of Hymns.

Organ Support: [Chorale Prelude \(PDF\)](#)

LITURGICAL AND HISTORICAL ROOTS

- Evening hymn tradition
- Association with Compline, funerals, and pastoral care
- Text by Henry Francis Lyte, written near the end of his life

THE ROLE OF THE HYMNAL

A parish hymnal is more than a songbook; it provides a stable foundation for communal singing across generations. Hymnals capture texts and tunes that have proven liturgical, theological, and musical value—ensuring continuity and shared identity in sung worship.

A Catholic Book of Hymns is designed to fulfill this role by offering a curated collection of hymns that are durable in liturgical use and rooted in the Church's tradition.