



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## Worship Resources: World AIDS Day

*Each Dec. 1, the ELCA joins with our neighbors around the world in commemorating World AIDS Day. On this day, we remember all who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. We also take this day to raise awareness and recommit to a faithful and dedicated response.*

### **Litany**

What will it take, O God,

**for us to see the vision fulfilled in the land of the living?**

What will it take, O God,

**for the change to come in our community, in our lives?**

What will it take, O God,

**for the scattered to be gathered that all may praise and dance together?**

What will it take, O God,

**to free our sisters and brothers from HIV and AIDS?**

What will it take, O God,

**for us to recognize your Word become flesh living among us with AIDS?**

What will it take, O God,

**for the dance to begin and the deaths to end?**

We pray in the strong name of Jesus who lives among us and in us and through us all.  
**Amen.**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray, God of all compassion,

Comfort your sons and daughters who live with HIV. Spread over us all your quilt of mercy, love and peace. Open our eyes to your presence reflected in their faces. Open our ears to your truth echoing in their hearts. Give us the strength to weep with the grieving, to walk with the lonely, to stand with the depressed.

May our love mirror your love for those who live in fear, who live under stress and who suffer rejection. Mothering, fathering God grant rest to those who have died and hope to all who live with HIV. God of life, help us to find the cure now and help us to build a world in which no one dies alone and where everyone lives accepted, wanted and loved. We pray in your name.

**Amen.**

## **Healing**

*Each petition may conclude with the spoken response below, or consider a sung response. See the musical resources at the end of this document for some suggestions.*

Heal us from bodily pains of HIV/AIDS that depletes our immunity, and leaves us open to opportunistic infections.

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Heal us from our broken hearts and grief that continues to pain our spirits and minds and leave us empty about the meaning of life.

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Heal us from the psychological pains of HIV/AIDS that engulf us in fear

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Heal us from HIV/AIDS social stigma and discrimination that leads us to uncompassionate acts of isolation, and failure to provide quality care and prevention.

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Heal us from unhealthy gender relations that expose partners to HIV/AIDS infection.

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Heal us from poverty that exposes millions to HIV/AIDS. Heal us from exploitative social structures that condemn many to poverty and expose them to infection.

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Heal us from violence that spreads HIV/AIDS. Heal us from ethnic and civil wars.

Heal us from domestic violence and other forms violence. .

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Loving and caring God, thank you, for You call us to love and serve Your people. You call those who care for those who live with HIV/AIDS to be healing hands in Your hurting world. You send them to compassion, to suffer with those who suffer. Day and night they labor to comfort Your people. Yet, many times they are depressed by the amount of suffering seen. And many times they are totally exhausted by the amount of work that must be done. They often neglect their own health and families in the HIV/AIDS struggle. O Lord, renew their strength.

Heal us Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Into your hands good and gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy. Through you Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Laying on of Hands, Anointing of the Sick, and Bringing Your Prayers for Healing on Behalf of Another.**

*Those who wish to receive laying on of hands approach and, as conditions permit, they may kneel.*

*The minister lays both hands on each person's head and may use these or similar words. The minister may also anoint the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross.*

I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.

*Response: **Amen.***

*The laying on of hands may be accompanied by the singing of acclamations, psalms, hymns and other music.*

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands, and the minister continues.*

Let us pray. Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain or diseases, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The service may continue with a hymn, the Lord's Prayer, and the blessing and dismissal.*

### **Scripture Suggestions:**

Proverbs 31:8-9

John 11:17-45

Psalms 121

Psalms 23

Romans 8:28-39

Isaiah 60:19-22

Matthew 22:33-40

Isaiah 40:1-11

Jeremiah 33:14-16

## Hymns, songs, and acclamations:

Come, Ye Disconsolate	ELW 607, TFF 186
Don't Be Afraid	John Bell, Iona Community (available from onelicense.net)
Healer of Boundless Compassion	ELW 219
Healer of Our Every Ill	ELW 612
How Long, O God	ELW 698
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	ELW 257
O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come	ELW 610
O God, Why Are You Silent	ELW 703
There Is a Balm in Gilead	ELW 614, TFF 185
We Come to You for Healing, Lord	ELW 617

*Additional hymns may be found in the LAMENT, HEALING, HOPE, ASSURANCE, PRAYER, and ADVENT sections of the worship resources listed above.*

*Additional musical resources and acclamations may be found in the following resources:*  
**Singing Our Prayer: A Companion to Holden Prayer Around the Cross** - Augsburg Fortress

**Hear Our Prayer: Sung Responses for Choir and Assembly** - Augsburg Fortress

## Sources & Additional Online Resources:

[http://www.ucc.org/ucan\\_world-aids-day](http://www.ucc.org/ucan_world-aids-day)  
<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/world-aids-day/>  
[http://www.textweek.com/festivals/AIDS\\_day.htm](http://www.textweek.com/festivals/AIDS_day.htm)  
<http://www.unaids.org/>  
<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/diakonia/ea/2015-world-aids-day-service>  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan/>