



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.

Litanies for World AIDS Day

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 so all may praise and dance together?

What will it take, O God,
to free our siblings 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, treatments to continue 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.

OR

Spirit of the living God, you breathe on all that is. You lead us from the places of pain and difficulty to your cool living waters of health and wholeness. Through you every tear is wiped away and we are transformed by your wellsprings of life.

We praise you, O God, and give you thanks for the gift of life and the life-giving power of your Spirit, which renews and refreshes us with hope.

We thank you that by the life-giving power of your spirit you bestowed upon us, your people, such gifts as are needed to respond to the situation at hand. Pour on us all that we need to stop AIDS and reach out to everyone affected with compassion, healing and hope.

May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.

We pray for the leadership of those living with or affected by HIV and give thanks for the courage you give us to share our stories. We thank you that our stories raise awareness, invite solidarity and challenge us to join with one another in the struggle. **May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.**

We pray for your church. Be with us and guide us as we respond to the needs of persons living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. We pray especially for our pastors and lay leaders as they provide pastoral services. Inspire and empower them to provide the leadership our faith community needs to respond effectively. **May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.**

We pray for our public officials. Be with them and guide them in their response to HIV and AIDS. Give them courage, wisdom and resources that they may create effective and just public policies so that everyone may receive the information they need to stop the spread of HIV and everyone may access the treatment and care required for their health and wholeness. **May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS.**

We give you thanks, O God, that you have raised-up leaders throughout the ages - reluctant leaders, courageous leaders, surprising leaders, humble leaders, servant leaders—bestowing on each one gifts for service. Raise-up among us such leaders today who will create universal access to medical treatment and health care, effective education and prevention programs, advocacy for strong and just public policy, and the funds and other resources needed to stop AIDS. **May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS. Amen.**

A Litany for World AIDS Day 2007 was written by the Rev. Lori Tisher, Intern in the Health and Wholeness Advocacy Ministries of Wider Church Ministries, a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ. Used with permission.

Prayer

Let us pray, God of all compassion,
Comfort your family members 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. Comforting, healing 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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

God of Hope

All of us are affected by HIV and AIDS.

At this time of Advent Hope,

As we prepare for the coming of your Son into this world

We give thanks for signs of hope.

For growing understanding

For medical advances

For changing attitudes and behaviour

For greater awareness and concern in your church.

Lord hear us, Lord Graciously hear us

God of Unity

Bind us together with strong ties of love

That all churches will be places where everyone can find acceptance,

May our churches provide a welcome for all affected by HIV and AIDS.

May they be places where care is given and received,

Especially for affected children and youth,

Where stories are told and heard,

Where fear is overcome by love,

Where you are to be found.

Lord hear us, Lord Graciously hear us

God of Promise

The end of AIDS is in sight!

Give us courage to run the race set before us.

We look to you in prayer and in action

For a day when all will have access to education and information

For a day when all who need it can get affordable and good quality treatment

For a day when all are affirmed, included and given care and support

Let us shed our cynicism, and hesitance to act

May we surprise you, as you surprise us!

Lord hear us, Lord Graciously hear

Karen Plater, Presbyterian World Service and Development (Canada). Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Worship resources for World AIDS Day 2014. <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/world-aids-day/index.html>

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 Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching Christ to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of Christ's 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, we pray.

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

Don't Be Afraid

ELW 607, TFF 186

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:

www.worldaidsday.org

www.reconcilingworks.org/HIV

www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/WorldAIDSDay2016PrayerService.pdf/view

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan/

www.ucc.org/ucan_world-aids-day

www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/world-aids-day/

www.textweek.com/festivals/AIDS_day.htm

www.unaids.org/