



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Worship Resources: World AIDS Day

ELCA Worship Resources for World AIDS Day December 1

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 of confession and remembrance

On this World AIDS Day, let us pray for all those living with HIV and AIDS, confess our complicity in perpetuating stigma, and hope for a cure.

(Brief silence)

We remember before you, O God, the nearly 37 million people living with HIV across the world and the 1.1 million people living with HIV in the United States. As we commit to learning about how HIV affects communities across the country and around the world,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We pray, O God, for each person living with HIV and AIDS – that they know your loving presence with them always. As we call to mind those living among us with HIV and AIDS,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We praise you, O God, for those in our congregation and community who care for people living with HIV and AIDS. For doctors, nurses, and medical professionals who minister with medicine and with words of support, and for family and friends who give comfort and assistance through their steady presence. In our gratitude for human love and tenderness,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We long for deliverance, O God, from all the powers of this world that contribute to the spread of HIV and AIDS. For an end to the evils of racism, economic inequality, homophobia, and transphobia. For those with addiction that they find treatment. For access to health care and education where it is lacking. As we confront unjust systems in this world,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We ask you to lead us, O God, into ways of living that erase the stigma around HIV and AIDS. Give us courage to speak openly and honestly, and to access prevention, testing, and treatment. Save us from judgments and fears that divide and isolate. Let your compassion take root in us as we form community. As we long for a world connected,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We acknowledge, O God, that the church has too often been complicit in the silence and stigma that surround HIV and AIDS. Forgive us for our inaction, for the moments we should have spoken up, and the times we've turned away. As we reckon with the harm we've done,

Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

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We plead for strength, O God, for all those working toward a world without HIV and AIDS. Give wisdom to researchers, endurance to educators, and vigor to those who advocate making our response to HIV and AIDS a priority. As we hope for a cure,
Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

We lift up before you, O God, all those who have died of complications from HIV and AIDS, and all those who grieve the loss of someone they've loved. Give us faith that you are with us, bearing our burdens and keeping us in your love which is stronger than death. As we trust your promise of resurrection,
Hold us, God, and renew our lives.

Holy and ever-living God, you hold us in your tender embrace, and you renew our lives with your endless mercy. On this World AIDS Day, be among us with healing and hope, that we may walk with each other in truth and joy.
Amen

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you draw us together into one body, uniting us by your grace. As we observe World AIDS Day, grant us compassion to turn toward one another with love, that we may find the abundant and true life you give us in Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Petition for Prayers of the People

Loving God, come near to us and to all the earth on this World AIDS Day. Give to those living with HIV and AIDS, strength to those who work for a cure, resolve to those who advocate for solutions, tenderness to caregivers and medical professionals, comfort to those who mourn on this day, and your bold spirit of welcome to your church.
God of mercy, **hear our prayer**

Blessing of the Hands

Suggested use as part of the "Sending." The assembly is invited to hold out their hands with their palms up.

God bless your hands with strength to support and advocate for people living with HIV and AIDS. God bless your hands with steadiness to seek the knowledge leading to better prevention and treatment, and, eventually, a cure.

God bless your hands with openness to reach through stigma with welcome and reconciliation.

God bless your hands with tenderness to care for all who mourn.

God bless your hands with other hands to hold – the journey is long, but we walk together in hope and love.

Hymns, songs, and acclamations

Come By Here	TFF 42, 43
Come, Ye Disconsolate	ELW 607, TFF 186
Don't Be Afraid John Bell, Iona Community	
Healer of Boundless Compassion	ELW 219
Healer of Our Every Ill	ELW 612
Holy God, Holy and Glorious	ELW 637
How Long, O God	ELW 698

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Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song	ELW 808
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
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	ELW 587
To Be Your Presence	ELW 546
We Come to You for Healing, Lord	ELW 617
When the Storms of Life Are Raging / Stand by Me	TFF 198

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

Scripture Suggestions

Psalm 23
 Psalm 121
 Proverbs 31:8-9
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 Isaiah 60:19-22
 Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Matthew 22:33-40
 John 11:17-45
 Romans 8:28-39

Additional musical resources and acclamations may be found in these resources and are available from Augsburg Fortress:

-  *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW)
-  *Hear Our Prayer: Sung Responses for Choir and Assembly*
-  *Music Sourcebook for Life Passages: Healing, Funeral, and Marriage*
(available Nov. 2018)
-  *Singing in Community: Paperless Music for Worship*
-  *Singing Our Prayer: A Companion to Holden Prayer Around the Cross*
-  *This Far By Faith* (TFF)

Additional Online Resources:

-  www.worldaidsday.org
-  www.reconcilingworks.org/HIV
-  https://www.oikoumene.org/en/@_@search?SearchableText=World+AIDS+Day
-  www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/pan/
-  www.ucc.org/ucan_world-aids-day
-  www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/world-aids-day/
-  www.textweek.com/festivals/AIDS_day.htm
-  www.unaids.org/