

**A Liturgy for Day of Prayer for People with Aids and Other Life
Threatening Illnesses
November 9, 2014
Byron Forester**

Calls to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The Lord is with us in health and in sickness.

People: The Lord is with us in poor and in plenty.

Leader: The grace of God is with us,

People: even when we feel unredeemable.

Leader: God walks with us.

People: even when we feel alone.

Leader: The love of God is with us,

People: even when we feel unloved.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Call to Confession

Trusting that we are reconciled to God, may we confess our sin to God and to each other.

Prayer of Confession

**We see our sisters and brothers with illnesses
that take away their strength and abilities
and we feel pity for them,
but we have not been moved.**

**We know that through your wondrous creation,
through the work of science and research
that much can be done to alleviate suffering and restore health,
But we find it too expensive.**

**Lord, you tell us to love one another,
but we find it frighteningly easy to ignore that command.**

Forgive us, Lord.

Heal us of our own blindness and deafness and hardheartedness.

**Make us over into your caring servants
who would deny ourselves in order to minister to others
in the way that Christ serves us.**

Heal us, O God.

Restore us, that we may enter your kingdom.

Silent confession

Assurance of Pardon

Be assured that God hears our prayer and will repair our broken spirits. There is nothing we can do that can move us beyond the reach of God's love, compassion and mercy. Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are a forgiven and blessed people. Amen.

Prayers for Illumination

God of our weakness and wellness, speak to us in whatever state we are in that we may find encouragement and wisdom in your Word. Amen.

Scripture for the Sermon

Matthew 14:34-36

Prayers of the People

Loving, liberating and life-giving God,
Heal our spirits.

Heal our spirits in such a way
that we are able to be aware of the ways
that your Spirit continues to move in our lives.

Be with those of us who are patients of AIDS, of cancer,
of ALCS, of any illness that threatens our lives.

Illnesses that:

- take away those physical abilities that we took for granted,
- confuse our minds and rob us of our memories,
- prevent us from experiencing life in the way we once did,
- will prevent us from experiencing life in our later years.

Give us the ability, Lord, to experience life in a different way; a way that allows us to be in deeper communion with you without all the distractions that come with a so-called "healthy" life.

Become so real to us that we understand that through our pain and disease, you walk with us as we move toward that point where we cease this earthly existence and are resurrected into eternal life with you.

We pray for those who labor in the hospitals: doctors, nurses, and technicians, those who feed us and bathe us and clean up after us. Give them the vision and urgency and the clear understanding that they are your agents of healing.

We pray for those who take care of us:

- friends and family, who so love us that they go beyond what they thought themselves capable of doing.
- Those who sit with us, talk with us, watch TV with us, listen to us as we unburden our hearts, or when we rail against God.

Be with them as they work through feelings of inadequacy, of guilt, of fear that they should have done something to prevent our illness.

We pray especially those of us who have no one like that in our lives; no one to listen to us, to comfort us, to pray for us; those of us who lay alone in our suffering, wondering if anyone ever loved us.

Help us, Lord. Speak to us in our hearts, assure us that we are not judged because we are sick; that we are not less precious to you because we cannot do what others do; that we are not less worthy of your love because we are not whole. Show us that even in our fragile physical state we still have gifts to share.

Help us to know that wholeness, true healing, comes when we are released into your eternal care. Ease our spirits, strengthen us, embolden us to know that you walk with us on every step of our journey as we are restored to you. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

God has given us everything we need in this life. May we share some of what we have been given so that others may have wholeness.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord we present to you symbols of what we do with our lives and ask your blessings upon them. We bring to you our very lives that you would use us in ways that reflect kindness and love for us. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

Go in the knowledge that none of us is completely healthy, that all of us are in need of grace and redemption.

Go in the knowledge that if we possess the same mind as Christ that we, too are able to share healing and restoring love with our sisters and brothers.

May you know the peace of Christ, the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit today and always. Amen.