

**A Liturgy for Day of Prayer for People with AIDS
And Other Life-threatening Illnesses
November 13, 2016
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Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord's house is a shelter for the forgotten;
a refuge for those seeking wholeness and healing from AIDS
and other life threatening illnesses,
and a family for those who are alienated.

People: We remember God will never leave or forsake us.

Leader: God's healing light shines upon and within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

All: Let us enter into the Lord's house and worship God.

Call to Confession

When one member of the body of Christ suffers, all members suffer. Scripture tells us to say no to wrong, learn to do good, work for justice, help the down-and-out, stand up for the homeless, go to bat for the defenseless. Let us together ask for forgiveness for the times we have not listened to God's voice.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God, you created all things good and sacred. We have sinned against you and creation. You created all of us in your image. We have denied many their dignity. You gave us resources and charged us with stewardship of all creation. We have failed to celebrate life when facing life-threatening situations. We spend too much on funerals and not enough on saving lives. We prefer the mountaintops and avoid the valleys and shadows of death. Forgive us and renew our commitment to stewardship of your sacred creation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

—2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Prayer for Illumination

Open our ears, eyes, and hearts, O God, so that we can see the suffering of others and respond to their needs. Give us courage to bring justice, healing and hope to a broken world. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- Isaiah 65:17-25

- Isaiah 12
- Malachi 4:1-2a
- Psalm 98
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
- Luke 21:5-19

Prayers of the People

God, your will is health and salvation.

Grant healing to all who are sick and restore them to health.

Jesus Christ, you came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

May our lives and the witness of the Church be a sign of your love to a broken world.

Holy Spirit, our bodies are the temples of your presence.

Be with those who suffer and strengthen them with your presence. Grant them peace and comfort.

Hear us Lord of Life—what can we learn?

All life is sacred. God is the only giver and protector of life and intervenes with the suffering. We are called to bring hope to those without hope.

Hear us Lord of Life—what can we be thankful for?

We are thankful for life, whether we are HIV positive, have AIDS or are seriously ill. We are thankful for those who work with at risk populations, for researchers who dedicate their lives to find cures and for the medical advances made thus far.

Hear us Lord of Life—what can we pray for?

We pray for a spirit of compassion, a desire to work for positive change in the lives of those suffering and the courage to visit those who live in the valleys of the shadow of death.

Hear us Lord of Life—what can we do?

We can be agents for change in a caring community, lead thankful lives and serve as ambassadors of hope. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

We are truly blessed with many gifts from God. At this time, let us give as generously to others as God has given to us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we know that even if we continued to give all that we have for all the days of our lives that we have, that we would never be able to match what you have given to us. And yet, we stand here giving of our best. Bless this offering and use it to better your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Go into the world taking the hope of God, the creator,
to a broken world longing to be restored to wholeness.

Share the love of Jesus Christ who touched the broken,
ate with them and offered them healing.

Give thanks for the gift of life—celebrate, live and protect it. Amen.