

Embrace AIDS Embrace LIFE

Prayer

This Prayer is appropriate for use during the Lord's Supper Service, the Offertory, or the Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance.

Creator God,
Maker of heaven and earth and all living things,
we praise you for your creation.
God, who created the body of Christ,
as one body, many parts,¹ we praise you.
Creator God, we need you.

Almighty God,
all powerful, all knowing and all loving,
we praise you for your power and also
for your love. God, we know that you bring healing and love
to all those who suffer. We praise you, God, for you
can heal any person and love all people.
We thank you, because we know that no one is out of your reach.
Almighty God, we need you.

Creator, Almighty, All-loving God,
we cry out to you, as one body, many members,
for your people are suffering.
God, there are people suffering in sickness from AIDS.
Lord, we come to you, weary and burdened,
as the body of Christ, suffering together,² and we ask for rest.³
Bring us healing, bring us rest.

Father God,
let the church be a force for transformation,⁴
to bring both healing and hope. Help us to share the message of hope
and of God's grace to those suffering from AIDS.
Oh Lord, help us to spread the news of a hope and a future⁵
for your people, both within life and also after life.
Bring us healing, bring us rest.

Omnipotent God,
we know those who suffer most
are those in poverty. We recognize the social injustices
that allow for more people to be sick.
Lord, we lament these injustices.
Lord, we rebuke these injustices!
Guide us, as your people, to be a vision of justice
Help us know how to fight against poverty.
Lord, help us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.⁶
Creator and Almighty God, we need you.

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:27, ² 1 Corinthians 12:26, ³ Matthew 11:28-29,

⁴ "Towards a Theology of HIV/AIDS" by Arnau van Wyngaard,

⁵ Jeremiah 29:11, ⁶ Proverbs 31:8