



## World AIDs Day December 1

**World AIDS Day** is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988. Globally there are an estimated 34 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.



### Prayer for World AIDs Day

Most Gracious and Compassionate God,  
On this World AIDS Day,  
We are mindful that countless people are at risk  
Of joining the 35 million already infected with AIDS.\*  
You are greater than any disease or plague;  
And now we ask, as You have done in times past,  
Heal and comfort those who are suffering.  
Be with those who may learn today  
That they have tested HIV-positive.  
God of mercy, we confess that we, Your people,  
Have often turned our backs  
On those with HIV/AIDS,  
Those who are sick and dying.  
We ask You to forgive us for our reproaching attitudes,  
Our lack of concern and response.  
Help us to hear their cries and respond  
To their needs with compassionate love.  
Amen.

*Source: Education for Justice*

**“Answer me when I call,  
God of my justice!  
Give me relief from my distress!  
Have mercy!  
Hear my prayer!**

~ P<sup>salm</sup> 4: 1-2