

How to Observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

Praying together as a community of faith amplifies the power of our prayers, reinforces our desire to be healing agents of God's world and reminds us to give thanks for opportunities to do so.

The Episcopal Church [designated](#) the first Sunday in Lent as "Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday." Every year, faith communities are encouraged to celebrate and partner with our lifesaving work on this or another convenient Sunday.

If you or your faith community have made the theme of this toolkit a part of your expressed priorities for a season, feel free to adapt the prayers and readings for this observance. Doing so will raise awareness of your partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development and invite others into the ongoing work of your team.

Consider setting up a display or informational table during fellowship, scheduling a presentation at a forum or study group or holding a special event to heighten this ministry.

Resources to help you with this observation, including prayers, petitions, proper prefaces and more, can be found on our website under Church Resources and at [this link](#). Sample sermons are available on Vimeo [here](#).

You can also visit [Forward Movement](#), where you can order complimentary resources for your observance, including beautiful informational bulletin inserts and fliers, pew envelopes, *Gifts for Life* catalogs, beautiful bookmarks and brochures and Hope Chest boxes.

"When we are privileged to experience the genuine love of God, we are compelled to enthusiastically and freely give it to others. And when we do, we can overcome every manner of evil. We experience God's love through daily choosing to see Christ in the other, loving our neighbor as ourselves. It is an intentional practice. It is not easy, but it is my hope for each of us that we can pass God's love on to all."

— An Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday sermon by Chad Brinkman,
Director, Faith Fundraising, Episcopal Relief & Development