



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Give us this day our daily bread.

— Matthew 6:11

Sometimes grace at our dinner table consists of these simple words: “Feed the hungry, O God. And for those of us who have plenty, may we hunger for you.” My kids like it mostly because it is short. But it also invites us to reflect on what we hunger for in our lives.

In places of severe drought in the developing world, people can spend most of a day walking to a well for water or waiting in line for food. Getting these basic needs met is their primary occupation. As for those of us who have plenty to eat, are we content? No, we keep wanting other things: good wine, the latest electronic device, a better job. Our appetites, it would seem, are insatiable. What would it mean to hunger instead for God?

Jesus taught us to pray, “Give us today our daily bread.” It is important that we not spiritualize hunger and forget those who are physically starving. But asking God for “daily bread” means more than just food. It is asking God to give us what we truly need—not all the other stuff we think we need.

What might daily bread be for you today?

— Nancy Hopkins-Greene