

Give us this day our daily bread.

— The Lord's Prayer



The vines are full of bright red strawberries and plump peapods. Each morning, from early spring to midsummer, my children run out in bare feet to the garden to grab the first red sweet-tart strawberry from the vine and to hunt for the plumpest pod full of sweet, perfectly formed peas for breakfast. The pea pods, the strawberry vines, the dark, rich soil—all still covered with morning dew.

The soil is the foundation of our food system. We are fed as our soil is fed. Healthy soil is alive, teeming with hungry microbes. And like us, these microbes multiply and relate to one another and the rain and sun, fed by the elemental nutrients of carbon and nitrogen. Healthy soil delivers nutrients to the fields and the farms and eventually to our bodies. Our soil forms our living earth.

Resurrection is under our feet every day. Our food connects us to soil, farmer, sunlight, rain—all of it provided to us in the miraculous creation of our garden earth. When we become aware of this precious gift, we also become connected to the 870 million people worldwide without adequate access to food. These gifts from God are hidden or taken away by our lack of awareness of our interconnected world. When we begin to recognize our daily bread as a gift, we understand all food—bread, strawberries, peas—as a gift from the generosity of the earth. Can we be stewards of this gift for all of God's children? Can we care for the soil as the soil cares for us?

Our world depends on it.

— Lisa Ransom