

# A Reading for the Thanksgiving Table

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**T**oday is a day of gratitude for all of our blessings—for health, safety, friends, family, and for the abundance before us. As we give thanks as Americans, we also recall the Jewish tradition of offering gratitude to God for sustaining the world with goodness and for providing food to all.

We express our appreciation for the food we have eaten today that nourishes and sustains us, and the land on which it is grown. We pause to acknowledge:

*V'achalta v'savata uverachta et Adonai Elohecha al ha'aretz hatova asher natan lach.*

**When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall praise Adonai your God for the good land God has given you.**

—DEUTERONOMY 8:10

But even as our gratitude overflows, our hearts are heavy with the knowledge that 925 million hungry people today cannot access these blessings. Even at the height of our joy, we cannot ignore the fact that we live in a world in which we lose 6.5 million children in developing countries each year to hunger-related causes. But we also cannot allow these severe numbers to overwhelm us into believing that hunger is too big a problem to solve. Nor should these numbers diminish our gratitude for the blessings before us.

May our thankfulness at this Thanksgiving meal and on every day drive us to pursue a better world for others. Let us pray that we may do our part to build a world without hunger, ensuring that all people have the gifts that we celebrate today—fullness and gratitude for our many blessings.

*Statistics: United Nations World Food Programme. Hunger Statistics. 3 May 2011. <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>*



**Reverse Hunger**

◀ Ending the Global Food Crisis