

# STRENGTH FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW

A litany by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema

**Reader 1:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:13)

**People:** **Thanks be to God! Our hearts overflow with hope!**

**Reader 2:** Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. (Isaiah 40:31a)

**People:** **Thanks be to God! Our strength is renewed!**

**Reader 1:** God has promised to meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)

**Reader 2:** He gives us daily bread to strengthen our hands and feet, our arms and legs, and our muscles and minds so that we can serve Him in his world.

**People:** **Thank you Lord for meeting our needs and sustaining us with your blessings.**

**Reader 1:** Jesus, the Bread of Life, became human. Like us He ate food to sustain his body, and like us He knew hunger. (Matt. 4:2).

**Reader 2:** While He lived among us, Jesus modeled God's love for those who were hungry. He fed those who followed Him and regularly commanded those who loved Him to care for the orphans, widows, and needy in their midst.

**People:** **Today, too, people are hungry. God, help us to love them as you love them.**

**Reader 1:** Love always shares.

**Reader 2:** God is pleased when we do good and sacrificially share what we have with others. (Heb. 13:16)

**People:** **In obedience to our Lord's command, we promise to share our God-given blessings with those in need.**

**Reader 1:** Love always cares.

**Reader 2:** God has blessed us with a marvellous creation, and commanded us to care for it. When we abuse creation for our own ends, the earth groans and those in need often pay the price. Yet when we care for the world and help others to be faithful stewards of God's creation, the Lord is pleased.

**People:** **In obedience to our Lord's command, we promise to care for creation as we care for each other. We support efforts throughout the world to help people to learn about conservation farming, to improve soil quality, to conserve water, to grow more food, and to advocate for just food policies and land distribution.**

**Reader 1:** Love always hopes. (1 Cor. 13:7b)

**Reader 2:** The Lord declares, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11)

**People:** **We rejoice in God's hope-filled plans for us and for our brothers and sisters around the world. We offer our God-given strength — our wealth, health, time, and energy — to help each other achieve our potential as God's image bearers.**

**Reader 1:** God, we can do everything through you who gives us strength. (Phil. 4:13)

**Reader 2:** Mobilize our strength on behalf of those in need!

**Reader 1:** Capture our minds with Isaiah's hopeful vision of a restored creation: "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thorn bush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow." (Isaiah 55:12-13)

**People:** **Thanks be to God! Our hearts overflow with hope!**

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