



As I reflect on the significance of this day to celebrate and honor "mothers," I am filled with gratitude. When I think of my own mother, no single memory or experience stands out more than the countless acts of sacrifice and love that she bestowed daily — from late night help with homework to her presence and surprisingly loud cheering at nearly every sporting event in which I competed. And when I consider my own journey as a mother of three young daughters, it is the seemingly ordinary everyday things — a tighter than normal hug as I head out the door — that can make my heart either swell with pride and love or heavy with worry and fear.

On Mother's Day after I had my first child, my mother gifted me a book of reflections by Julie K. Ageson, a writer for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. One of my favorite passages asks the reader to consider where God is. Where is that holy ground? Ageson reflects, *"God graces us by hallowing the ordinary places where we live and work and share daily life. Recognize wellsprings of grace in the everyday, commonplace rituals of life."*

On this Mother's Day, I invite you to join me in honoring and celebrating motherhood in your life — whether that is in the sharing of memories of those who have passed on, or those who are still with us. May this be a day to recognize God's presence in the ordinary rhythms of our lives and in those who guide, empower, and encourage us.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

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