

Nurtured in Faith

When our first daughter was born, my husband astonished some of the nurses on the obstetrics ward where he was doing a rotation by not yet having a picture of her within hours of birth. (This was before cell phones.) Always the tease, he told them that he thought all newborns were ugly. I think they almost ran him off the ward!

She was actually a cute baby, and has grown into a beautiful woman with two darling children of her own. She grew in the midst of a family that loved her, and a church community that nurtured her. Just as the fuzzy, gray cygnet grows into a graceful, white swan, we're created to grow into the beautiful person God intends.

1 Peter 2:2 reminds us that our birth, our decision to follow Christ, is only the beginning. We grow with spiritual milk received in regular, nutritional feedings. Those who have tasted that the Lord is good hunger for more, for a closer relationship with God.

On this Mother's Day, may we be grateful for our birth mothers and all those who nurtured us into our relationship with God.

Call to Worship

One: Come! Come all of you. God is inviting each of us to this time of worship.

Many: **In worship we sing, we pray, we meditate.**
We confess, testifying to God's goodness.
We are nurtured, strengthened by the word.

One: In worship we grow. In faith we trust.
Come and be fed! Taste that the Lord is good.

All: *We are God's people. Let us praise God for the wonderful acts of mercy and salvation.*

—Carol Spicher Waggy
Goshen, Indiana

Text for today: "Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, *you will grow* into salvation, since you have tasted that the Lord is good. . . . But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:2, 9-10, CEB). **Bible readings for today:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10 (2); John 14:1-14.