

*Happy Mother's Day!*





Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith.

Be courageous, be strong.

Do everything in love.

*1 Corinthians 16: 13-14*

A person is standing on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, cloudy sky. The scene is dramatic and atmospheric, with a mix of dark rocks and white snow patches. The text "Stand Firm" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

Stand Firm





# **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**







## Opening Prayer

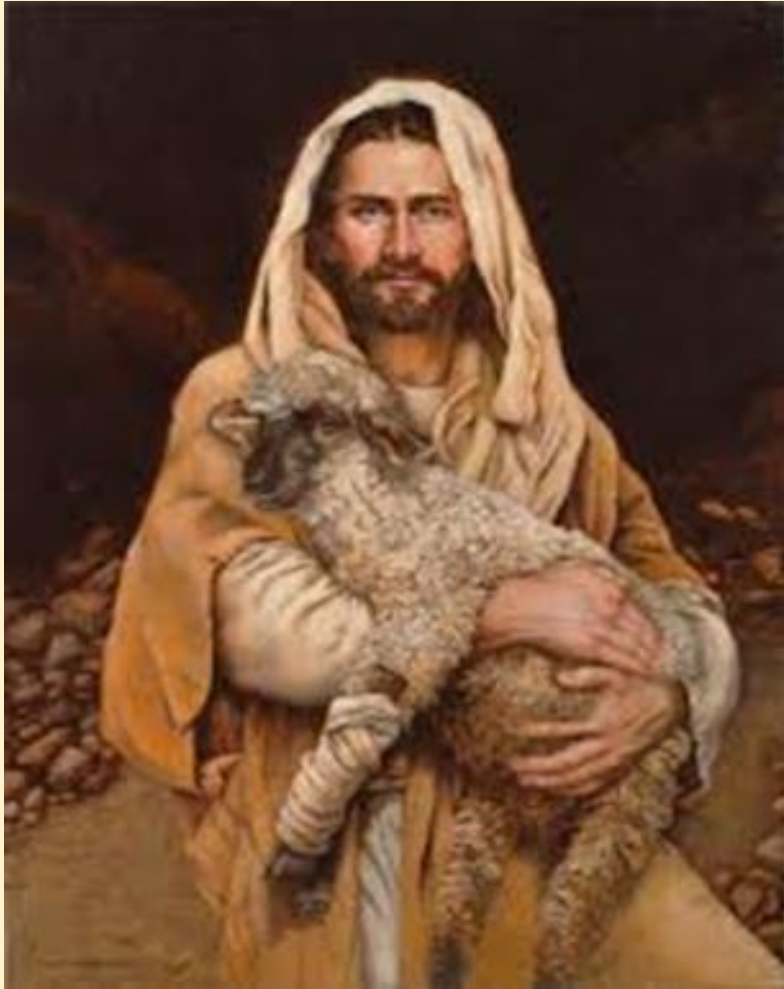
Dear Lord,

Keep our moral compass straight and pointing to you. You know how we struggle to do this. Sometimes it costs more than we want to pay to stand firm. Sometimes it's much easier to bend a little and avoid the consequences.

But you have called us to be faithful in both large ways and small.

Help us stay true like a compass. *Amen.*





The Lord is my Shepherd  
He goes before me  
Defender behind me  
I won't fear  
I'm filled with anointing  
My cup's overflowing  
No weapon can harm me  
I won't fear

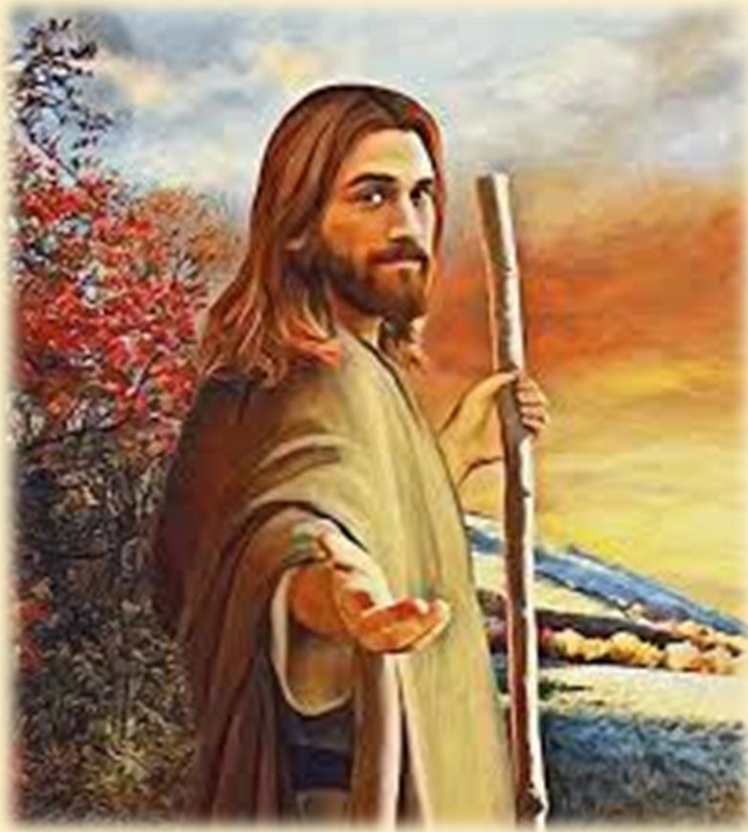




### **Chorus**

Hallelujah I am not alone

He's my Comfort always holds me close



He always guides me  
Through mountains and valleys  
His joy is refreshing  
Restores my soul  
Mercy and goodness  
Give me assurance  
That I'll see His glory  
Face to face



Your Spirit lives within me  
So I will walk in Your peace  
Your Spirit lives within me  
My victory, my victory (4X)



**Responsive Reading: Proverbs 3: 1-10**

My child, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commandments in your heart. For they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

**Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

**In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.**

# Facing the fire



### Daniel 3: 1-18 (adapted)

**King:** That is one fine looking statue, if I do say so myself. Come, all you governors, judges, magistrates, and officials. Come out here and assemble yourselves. When you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the harp, and all the rest of the instruments, you must fall down and worship this image of gold I have created.

Whoever does not fall down and worship will IMMEDIATELY be thrown into a blazing furnace.

**Astrologer:** O great King Nebuchadnezzar, may you live forever. Now, didn't you say that everyone must fall down and worship the image of gold you created? ...And it is beautiful, indeed, O King. Nice job.

**King:** Yes, that's what I said.







**Astrologer:**

Not to be a snitch or anything, but there are some Jews – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to be specific – who aren't paying any attention to you, O king. They don't serve your gods or worship that beautiful image of gold you have set up. I thought you'd want to know.

**King:**

WHAT?! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Come up here. Didn't I make myself clear? When the music plays, you are to bow down IMMEDIATELY and worship this fine golden image, or you will be thrown into the blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?



**Shadrach:** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king.

But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will *not* serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.



**I will come to you in the silence.**

**I will lift you from all your fear.**

**You will hear My voice;**

**I claim you as My choice.**

**Be still, and know I am near.**





**Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow Me;  
I will bring you home.  
I love you and you are mine.**



**I am hope for all who are hopeless**

**I am eyes for all who long to see**

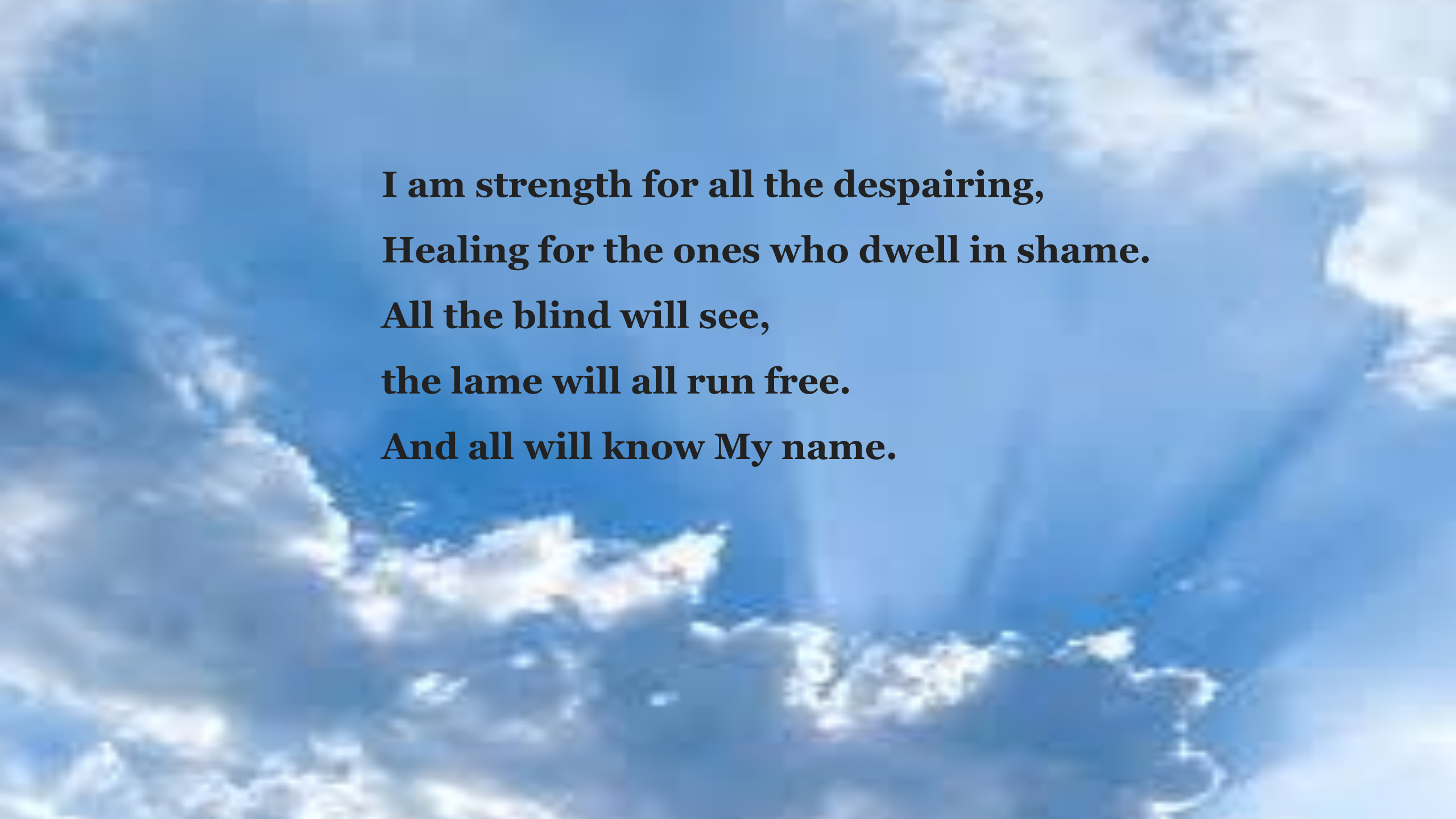
**In the shadows of the night**

**I will be your light**

**Come and rest in Me**



**Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow Me;  
I will bring you home.  
I love you and you are mine.**

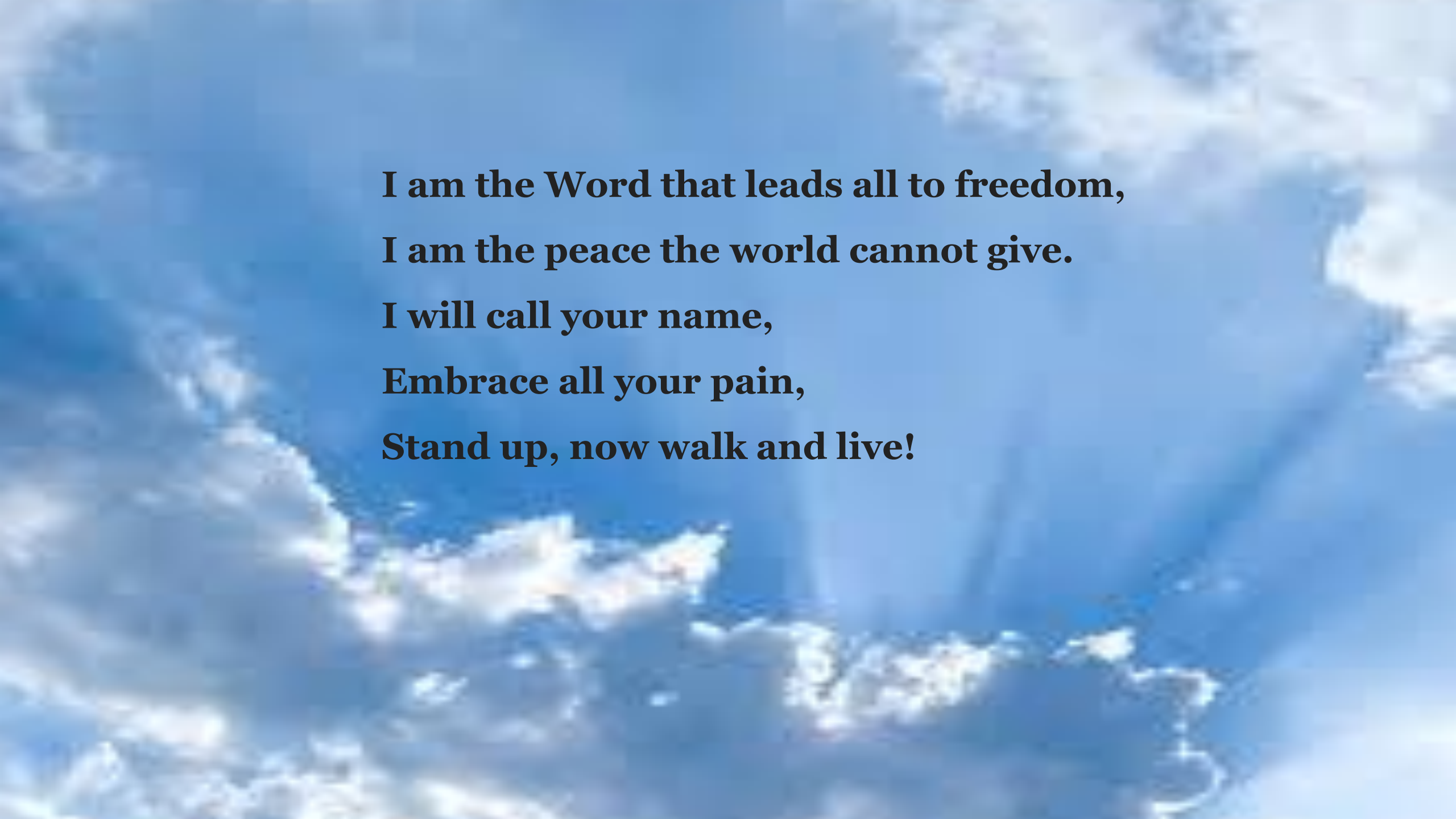


**I am strength for all the despairing,  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see,  
the lame will all run free.  
And all will know My name.**





**Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow Me;  
I will bring you home.  
I love you and you are mine.**



**I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name,  
Embrace all your pain,  
Stand up, now walk and live!**



**Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow Me;  
I will bring you home.  
I love you and you are mine.**

# Community Prayer

Dear God,

There are times when things happen that challenge us to step up and show what it means to be people of faith. Help us to put aside our need to understand what is happening.

We want to choose to show others what it means to have complete faith and trust in You, by how we respond to the difficult situations we face. How grateful we are for Your promises, and that You give us the strength needed for each day!

**AMEN**