

A wooden cross is the central focus, with a vibrant blue cloth draped over its horizontal beam. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees. The lighting is natural and bright, creating a serene atmosphere.

Morning Prayers

Bidding prayer

Loving God, you spoke through the prophets

And promised a redeemer for this world.

You declared that you would put a new heart and new spirit within us.

Through the death and resurrection of your Son,

we can claim this promise.

You have spoken of love and shown what it really means;

You have talked about forgiveness and demonstrated mercy.

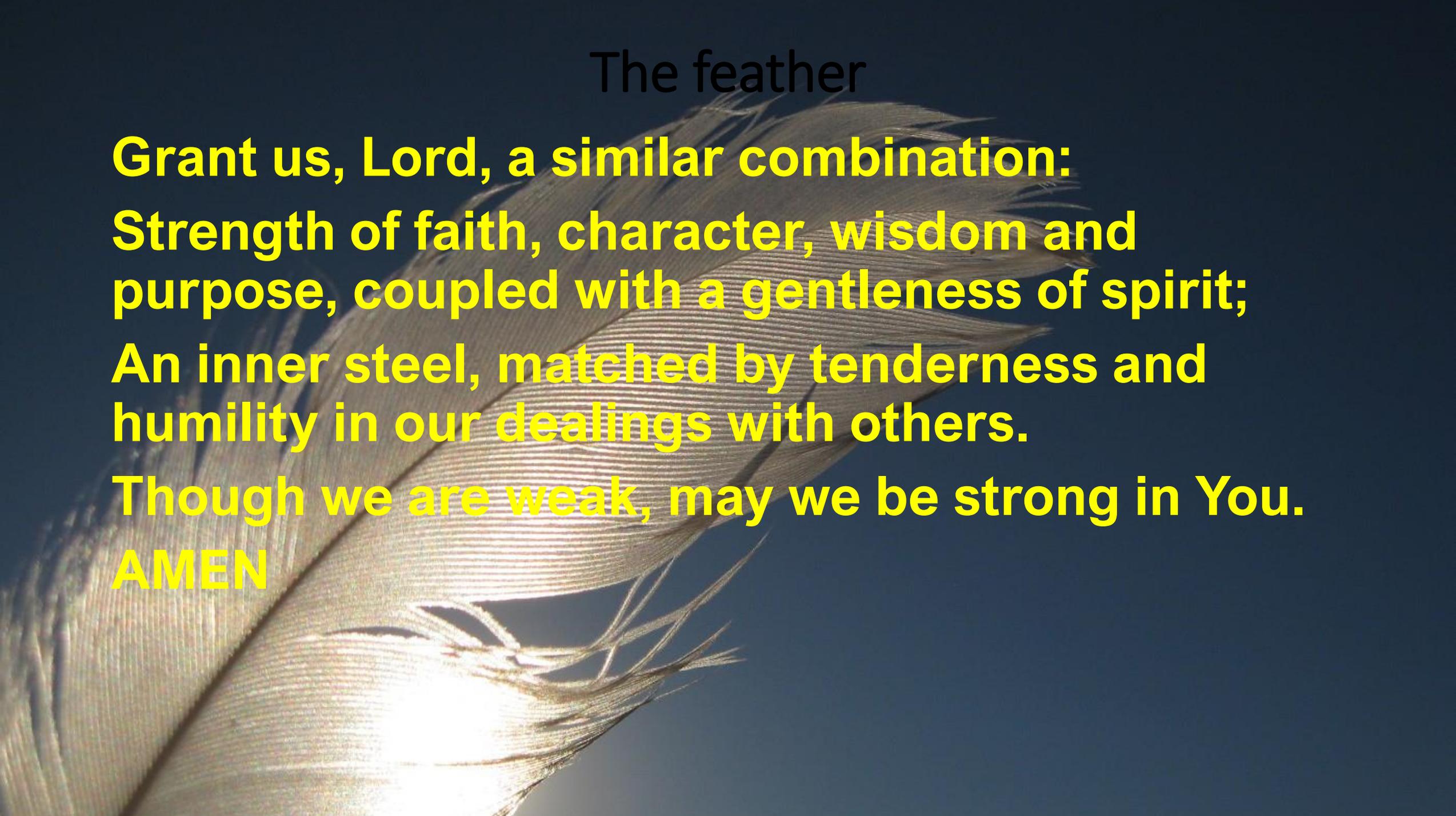
Help us, in turn, to prove our love for you, at this time,

Through concrete actions, by practising what we preach,

And committing ourselves to your service. **AMEN**

The feather

**It fell from the sky,
Fluttering gently on the breeze
Before landing in the palm of my hand
With a touch so soft it barely registered.
Yet that same feather had helped to carry a bird in
flight,
Bearing its weight as wings strained against the
wind;
Deceptive strength behind such apparent fragility.**

The background of the image is a close-up photograph of a feather. The feather is light-colored, possibly white or cream, and has a fine, textured structure. It is set against a dark blue background. The lighting highlights the intricate details of the feather's barbs.

The feather

Grant us, Lord, a similar combination:

Strength of faith, character, wisdom and purpose, coupled with a gentleness of spirit;

An inner steel, matched by tenderness and humility in our dealings with others.

Though we are weak, may we be strong in You.

AMEN

Prayer of praise

Father, giver of Light and power, we praise you;

Jesus, Light of the World, we acknowledge you:

Holy Spirit, presence of God within us,

We open our hearts to receive you.

Father, Son and Spirit, perpetual Light,

Illuminating our lives, we praise you, we thank you,

Even as we share in the harsh realities of the world about us,

For resurrection hope that overcomes everything

And renews our whole lives, mind and heart,

To the glory of your name, now and always. AMEN

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
Therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
And leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of
righteousness
For his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I will fear no evil; for you are with me;



**Your rod and staff they comfort me.
You spread a table before me
In the presence of those who trouble me;
You have anointed my head with oil
And my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

A close-up photograph of a hand in a prayer position, with fingers spread and palm facing up. The hand is the central focus, set against a background of a bright, cloudy sky. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the texture of the skin and the lines on the hand. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Prayers

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. —*Philippians 4:6*

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.

Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. —*Psalms 23:4*

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.

Lord, we are so grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so that people are able to eat. We ask that You bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during supplies shortages. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies. Keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies and food people have ordered online. And please protect them all from contracting the new coronavirus.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of travelling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands. And while it may be heart-breaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...

Psalm 46:1-2

*We bring all our prayers to you, in Jesus name. **AMEN***



A blessing

Lighten the darkness of our inward vision, Lord
And let the pure light of your truth so
Pervade our hearts and minds,
That we may discern what is good and right
And what is your will for our lives.
Then may the grace, peace and blessing
Of God our Father,
Through Jesus Christ the Son
And the Indwelling Holy Spirit
Be ours forever.

AMEN