

*"Watch and pray..." (Matthew 26:41, ESV)*

# Easter Weekend Prayer Guide

## North Highlands Bible Church

As we wait on the resurrection morning, as a church family, we are taking time to pray, to seek God, reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, and intercede for the Church and the world. Thank you for joining us.

### **Before You Begin (2 min)**

- Find a quiet space. Light a candle if possible, symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World.
- Play some worship or instrumental music in the background to help focus your heart.
- Take a few deep breaths, inhaling God's presence, exhaling distractions.
- Whisper a prayer:

*"Lord, as I watch and pray, open my heart to Your presence. Let me hear Your voice and respond in faith."*

### **I. Thanksgiving & Worship (5 min)**

#### **Scripture Reading:**

*"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy." (Psalm 103:2-4, ESV)*

#### **Prayer Prompt:**

- Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness.
- Thank Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross.
- Reflect on a time when God has shown you His mercy.

#### **Sample Prayer:**

*"Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude. Thank You for Your love, mercy, and faithfulness. You have forgiven my sins, healed my heart, and redeemed my life. I worship You for who You are—my Savior, my Redeemer, my King. Today, I fix my eyes on Jesus, remembering His sacrifice and anticipating His resurrection. Fill my heart with joy and awe at Your great love. Amen."*

### **II. Reflection on Christ's Sacrifice (5 min)**

*"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5, ESV)*

#### **Interactive Exercise:**

- Write down or whisper aloud what Jesus' sacrifice means to you personally.
- Ask yourself: What sins or burdens am I carrying that Jesus has already paid for?

### **Sample Prayer:**

*"Lord Jesus, as I reflect on Your sacrifice, I am overwhelmed by Your love. You endured the pain of the cross for me. You bore my sin, my shame, and my brokenness so that I could be set free. Thank You for paying the price I could never pay. I confess my sins before You now—please cleanse my heart and renew my spirit. Help me to live in the freedom and grace You have won for me. Amen."*

### **III. Intercession for the Church & the World (10 min)**

#### **Scripture Reading:**

*"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (1 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV)*

#### **Prayer Focus Areas & Sample Prayers**

##### **1. The Global Church – Pray for revival and boldness in sharing the Gospel.**

*"Lord, I lift up Your Church around the world. Strengthen pastors, missionaries, and believers to stand firm in faith. Let Your Spirit ignite revival in hearts, cities, and nations. May Your Church be a light in the darkness, proclaiming the hope of the resurrection with boldness. Unite us in love and purpose, that we may glorify Your name. Amen."*

##### **2. Persecuted Believers – Lift up those suffering for their faith.**

*"Father, I pray for my brothers and sisters who are facing persecution for following You. Give them supernatural courage, protection, and peace. Let them feel Your presence in their suffering, and provide for their every need. May their faith be a testimony that draws many to You. Strengthen their hearts and remind them they are never alone. Amen."*

##### **3. Your Church Family – Intercede for leaders, ministries, and spiritual growth.**

*"God, I pray for my church family. Bless my pastors, leaders, and fellow believers. Strengthen our community in faith and unity. Help us to love one another as You have loved us. May our church be a place of healing, restoration, and transformation. Pour out Your Spirit on us, and guide us to fulfill the calling You have placed on our lives. Amen."*

##### **4. The Lost – Pray for those who have not yet received Christ.**

*"Jesus, You came to seek and save the lost. Right now, I lift up those in my life who do not yet know You. (Say their names aloud.) Open their hearts to Your truth. Let them encounter Your love in a powerful way. Remove any barriers that keep them from receiving You. Soften their hearts and draw them to salvation. Use me, Lord, to be a witness of Your grace. Amen."*

##### **5. The World – Ask God for justice, peace, and healing in nations facing war, disaster, or division.**

*"Father, I lift up the world to You. There is so much brokenness, pain, and division. Bring healing to the nations. Where there is war, bring peace. Where there is suffering, bring comfort. Where there is injustice, let Your righteousness prevail. May leaders seek wisdom and truth. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen."*

**Interactive Exercise:**

- Write down three names of people who need to know Jesus.
- Pray over them by name, asking God to reveal Himself to them.

**IV. Hope & Expectation (5 min)****Scripture Reading:**

*"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (Luke 24:5-6, ESV)*

**Prayer Prompts:**

- Declare hope over your life and your circumstances.
- Ask God to renew your faith in the power of the resurrection.
- Pray with expectation for what God will do in your church and city this Easter Sunday.

**Sample Prayer:**

*"Jesus, You are alive! Because You live, I have hope. I declare that Your resurrection power is at work in my life. No situation is too hopeless, no heart too hard, no burden too heavy for You. Fill me with faith to trust in Your promises. Prepare my heart to celebrate the victory of Easter. May Your joy overflow in my life and touch those around me. Amen."*

**Closing (3 min)****Scripture Reading:**

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13, ESV)*

**Final Prayer:**

*"Father, thank You for this time in Your presence. I surrender all my prayers to You, trusting that You hear me and are at work. Fill my heart with peace and joy as I anticipate the resurrection morning. Strengthen my faith, and let my life be a testimony of Your love and power. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

End your prayer time in quiet reflection, holding onto the joy of Easter morning.

**Encouragement:**

If God spoke to you during this time, journal any insights, visions, or prayers to revisit later.

**Share the Joy:**

Send an encouraging message to a friend or family member about the hope of Easter.