

# FIRSTWATCH | Prayer Guide

April

**1. Invitation to Prayer (5 minutes)** Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time of prayer, asking for clarity and focus. Acknowledge God's presence and fully commit this hour to Him.

*Spend a few minutes of this time singing or listening to one of your favorite worship songs.*

**2. Confession and Repentance (5 minutes):** Acknowledging our sin and the need for atonement

1 John 1:9 – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Isaiah 53:5 – "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds, we are healed."

**Prayer Points:**

- Confess specific sins to God and ask for forgiveness, acknowledging the weight of Christ's atoning work.
- Thank God for the cross, where Jesus bore your sins so that you could be forgiven.
- Reflect on the incredible love of Christ, who suffered and died for your salvation.

**3. Reflection on Christ's Suffering (5 minutes):** Take some time to ponder the depth of Christ's sacrifice

Matthew 27:45-50 – "From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"

Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**Prayer Points:**

- Reflect on the physical and spiritual suffering Jesus endured on the cross for you.
- Praise Jesus for His obedience and willingness to endure the wrath of God on your behalf.
- Thank God for His amazing love, which was shown through Christ's sacrifice.

**4. Thanksgiving for the Cross (5 minutes):** Focus this time on expressing gratitude for Jesus's Sacrifice

Galatians 6:14 – "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Colossians 1:20 – "and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross."

**Prayer Points:**

- Thank God for the power of the cross, where Jesus' blood was shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
- Praise God for reconciling you to Himself through the death of His Son.
- Reflect on how the cross has transformed your life, making peace between you and God.

**5. The Resurrection of Jesus (5 minutes):** Spend this time celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death

Matthew 28:5-6a – "The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

Romans 6:9-11 – "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

**Prayer Points:**

- Praise God for raising Jesus from the dead and defeating sin, death, and hell.
- Thank God for the hope of eternal life that the resurrection provides.
- Celebrate the victory over death that is assured to all believers because of Christ's resurrection

**6. Prayer to Fully Follow Christ (5 minutes):** Spend this time asking God to help you fully surrender to His will.

Philippians 3:10-11 – “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

**Prayer Points:**

- Ask God to give you strength to live in a way that reflects the resurrection power of Christ.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of the resurrection and its transformative power in your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to walk in faith and obedience, no matter the challenges.

**7. Prayer for our Church and School (15 minutes):** Pray for these specific prayer requests for First North in April.

- The Passion Experience (April 16-19): Pray for this powerful, evangelistic portrayal of Jesus' final hours.
- Pray for the recruitment of hundreds of necessary volunteers (set-up, parking, cast, counseling, etc.).
- Pray that the Gospel presentation will deeply convict hearts and lead many to Christ.
- Easterific Egg Hunt (April 19): Pray for a joyful, safe event that effectively shares Easter's message of love and hope with children and the community.
- Easter Sunday (April 20): Pray for God's anointing on our Easter services. Pray that our pastor can effectively communicate the Gospel to those who are unchurched.
- SCA Trips: Pray for 5th, 8th and 12th grade trips happening this Spring. Pray for unity, safety, and friendships.
- Please pray for our Spring athletes. Spring athletics is always difficult to manage with everything being off campus. Pray that the Lord would protect our athletes as they travel and our coaches as they manage so many details, and that SCA's athletics program would continue to honor God in all things.

**8. Prayer for the Lost (5 minutes):** Spend this time praying for those who don't know Christ.

Romans 10:13-15 – “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?”

**Prayer Points:**

- Intercede for those who don't know the hope of the resurrection and salvation in Christ.
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with those around you.
- Ask God to soften hearts and open eyes to the truth of the gospel.

**9. Prayer for Revival (5 minutes):** Pray that God would stir revival in your heart, our church, and our world.

2 Chronicles 7:14 – “If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

**Prayer Points:**

- Ask God to send revival to His Church, bringing repentance, renewal, and a hunger for His Word.
- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bring transformation and awakening in our community.
- Pray that the church would be faithful in living out and proclaiming the truth of Christ's resurrection.

**10. Closing Thanksgiving (5 minutes):** Conclude your time expressing gratitude for the gift of salvation

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Ephesians 1:3-4 – “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

**Prayer Points:**

- Thank God for His great love demonstrated in the sacrifice of His Son.
- Praise God for the spiritual blessings you have in Christ, including eternal life and forgiveness.
- Reflect on the joy of knowing Christ and the gift of salvation He offers.