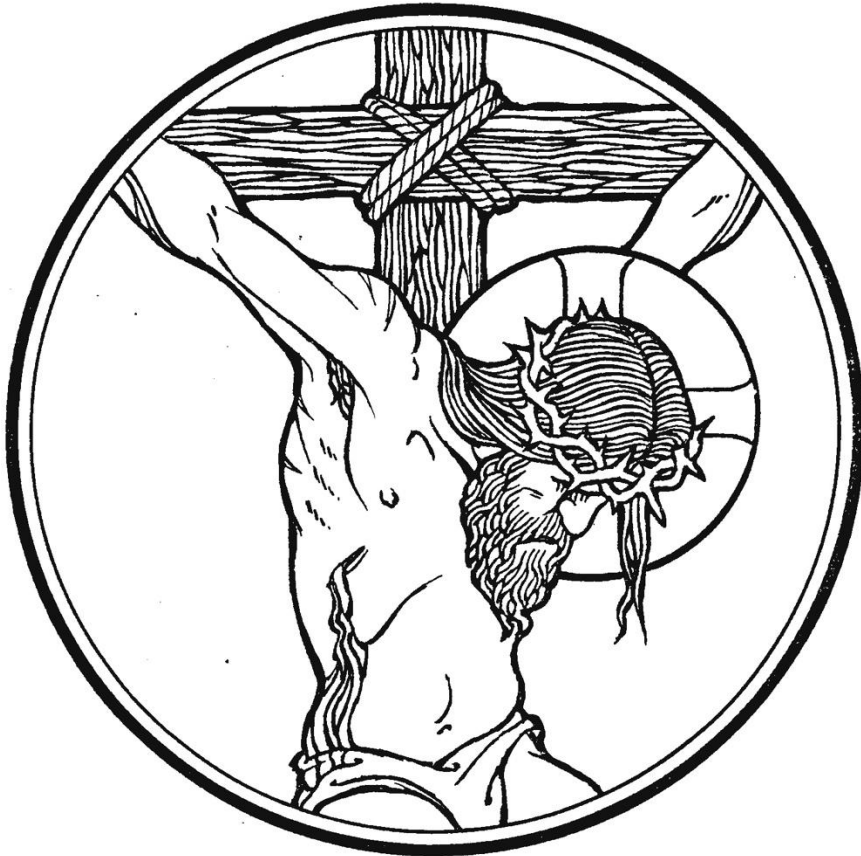


GOOD FRIDAY



APRIL 3, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

124 MAPLE STREET NORTH

LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

(320)-395-2573

www.stpaullp.org

AS WE GATHER—HIS DYING BREATH

Jesus is betrayed into the hands of sinners. He is mocked while wearing a purple robe and a crown of thorns. He must carry His own cross to Golgotha, the Place of a Skull. All of this happens until the last, when “for us He gave His dying breath” (*LSB* 544:5). It is completed. Salvation has been won for us. It is finished; He has loved us to the end.

✠ THE GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION ✠

(FROM THE REAR OF THE NAVE)

- P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
C O come, let us worship Him.

(FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE NAVE)

- P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
C O come, let us worship Him.

(FROM THE FRONT OF THE NAVE)

- P** Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the world.
C O come, let us worship Him.

THE FIRST REPROACH AND RESPONSE

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people.
C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR “LAMB OF GOD, PURE AND HOLY” 434, v. 1

THE SECOND REPROACH AND RESPONSE

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people.
C Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in the face of death. O Lord, have mercy.

THE THIRD REPROACH AND RESPONSE

- P** Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people.
- G** Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.

ADORATION OF CHRIST

- P** We adore You, O Lord,
and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.
- G** For behold, by the wood of Your cross
joy has come into all the world.
- P** God be merciful to us and bless us,
and cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.
- G** We adore You, O Lord,
and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection.
- P** For behold, by the wood of Your cross
joy has come into all the world.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, graciously behold Your family gathered here at the foot of the wooden cross of Your dear Son, who delivers us from our sin so that we may have life and have it abundantly; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

¹³Behold, My servant shall act wisely; He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. ¹⁴As many were astonished at you—His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind— ¹⁵so shall He sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. ¹Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. ³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to His own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of My people? ⁹And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all to bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we fear not the power of sin, death, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

EPISTLE

HEBREWS 4:14–16; 5:7–9

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ^{5:7}In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 19:28-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the nineteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“SING, MY TONGUE, THE GLORIOUS BATTLE”

454:1-4

SERMON

GOOD FRIDAY BIDDING PRAYER

The Bidding Prayer has been part of the Good Friday service since the Middle Ages. The “bids” read before each petition invite the Church to join her petitions to those of her Lord for all manners of people, a response to Jesus’ open arms on the cross drawing all peoples to himself.

☐...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☑ Amen.

HYMN

“O PERFECT LIFE OF LOVE”

452, v. 1-5



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

5 In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

✠ THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE ✠

The central feature of the Tenebrae service is the extinguishing of candles and the progressive darkening of the church lights as the last seven Words of Christ are read. As the darkness increases, we are reminded of the foreboding darkness of sin and death and our utter dependence on the Light of the World. Some worshipers will have difficulty seeing to sing the hymn and read the prayers. This is intentional and offers the church both the opportunity to sing and speak God's Word to one another as well as a time to hear this Word spoken to us by other members of Christ's family.

The final candle, symbolizing the light of Christ, will be extinguished during the choral anthem after the final reading, as the Light of the World was extinguished on the cross. After that, a loud sound (streptitus) will be heard, symbolizing the completeness of

Christ's sacrifice. The congregation then leaves in silence and minimal light. The extended service of the Triduum (Three Days) will conclude tomorrow with the Vigil of Easter, where the Christ candle is traditionally lit and the light of our resurrected Lord Jesus and His new life for us will pierce the darkness of our sin and death. The Christ candle here at St. Paul will be lit again at the sunrise service on Easter morning.

THE FIRST WORD

JOHN 19:14-16A, LUKE 23:32-34A

P Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. [Pontius Pilate] said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified. Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right, and one on His left. And Jesus said,

C "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

PRAYER

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.

P Savior, for our pardon sue, When our sins Your pangs renew,

C For we know not what we do: Hear us, holy Jesus.

P Oh, may we, who mercy need, be like you in heart and deed,

C When with wrong our spirits bleed: Hear us, holy Jesus.

P Lord Jesus Christ, in Your sinlessness, You never needed forgiveness, and yet You forgave those who sinned against You without cause.

Give us grace and courage to forgive those who wrong us, that we may so draw attention to Your forgiving glory on the cross.

C Amen.

The first candle is extinguished.

HYMN

"UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED"

453:1, 3, 4



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed See, world, your
 3 Who is it, Lord, that bruised You? Who has so
 4 I caused Your grief and sigh - ing By e - vils



Lord sus - pend - ed. Your Sav - ior yields His breath.
 sore a - bused You And caused You all Your woe?
 mul - ti - ply - ing As count - less as the sands.



The Prince of Life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly
 We all must make con - fes - sion Of sin and dire trans -
 I caused the woes un - num - bered With which Your soul is



giv - en To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
 gres - sion While You no ways of e - vil know.
 cum - bered, Your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.

P And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him,^[d] “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him,^[d] saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And He said to him,

C “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

PRAYER

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.**

P May we in our guilt and shame, Still Your love and mercy claim,

C **Calling humbly on Your name: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P May our hearts to You incline, And their thoughts Your cross
entwine.

C **Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, while You hung on the cross, You showed mercy to the dying thief. With that mercy, look on us also, we pray, and at our last hour, comfort us with Your promise that we will dwell forever in paradise with You.

C **Amen.**

The second candle is extinguished.

HYMN

"O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED"

450:1, 3



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound-ed, With grief and shame weigh-ed down,
 3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur-round-ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown.
 Mine, mine was the trans-gres-sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.



O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss, till now was Thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;



Yet, though de-spised and gor - y, I joy to call Thee mine.
 Look on me with Thy fa - vor, And grant to me Thy grace.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002988 Tune: Public domain

THE THIRD WORD

JOHN 19:25–27

- L** Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother,
- G** "Woman, behold, your son!"
- P** Then He said to the disciple,
- G** "Behold, your mother!"
- P** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

PRAYER

- P** We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.
- G** By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.

P May we in Your sorrows share, For Your sake all peril dare,
C And enjoy Your tender care: Hear us, holy Jesus.

P May we all Your loved ones be, All one holy family,
C Loving, since Your love we see: Hear us, holy Jesus.

P Lord Jesus, even in Your death, You put those who are lonely and neglected into families. Draw many into Your family that we may praise You together with them forever.

C Amen.

The third candle is extinguished.

HYMN

“UPON THE CROSS EXTENDED”

453: 5-6



5 Your soul in griefs un - bound - ed, Your head with
6 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to



thorns sur - round - ed, You died to ran - som me.
You for - ev - er, I am no long - er mine.



The cross for me en - dur - ing, The crown for me se -
To You I glad - ly ten - der All that my life can



cur - ing, You healed my wounds and set me free.
ren - der And all I have to You re - sign.

THE FOURTH WORD MATTHEW 27:45-47

P Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is,

C “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

PRAYER

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.**

P When we seem in vain to pray, and our hope seems far away,

C **In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P Though no Father seem to hear, though no light our spirits cheer,

C **May we know that God is near: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P Lord Jesus, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, You were forsaken by Your Father so that we would not be forsaken. Give us grace to rely on Your complete sacrifice so that we may always trust our heavenly Father’s love for us.

C **Amen.**

The fourth candle is extinguished.

HYMN

"O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN" 439:1, 4-5



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
 The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants
 Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 owe Him, Who would not know Him.
 quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662 Text and tune: Public domain

THE FIFTH WORD

JOHN 19:28-29

P After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),

C "I thirst."

P A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth.

PRAYER

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.

P Thirst for us in mercy still; All Your holy work fulfill;

C Satisfy Your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.

P May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our sin and woe,

C Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

P Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Jews and King of the nations, You have promised that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would be satisfied. Give us faith to trust that Your thirst on the cross supplies all that we need.

C Amen.

The fifth candle is extinguished.

HYMN

“JESUS, GRANT THAT BALM AND HEALING”

421:4-5



4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

P When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said,

C “It is finished,”

P and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

PRAYER

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.**

P Save us in our soul’s distress; Be our help to cheer and bless,

C **While we grow in holiness: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P Brighten all our heavenward way, with an ever holier ray,

C **Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, You set the boundaries of our lives and grant us tasks to do in Your name. In Your great love, You did not stop short of finishing the task given to You by the Father. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, lead us to complete all You intend us to do in this world until that time when we share in Your eternal presence in the world to come.

C **Amen.**

The sixth candle is extinguished.

HYMN

"O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED"

450:6-7



6 My Sav - ior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
7 Be Thou my con - so - la - tion, My shield, when I must die;



Then let Thy pres - ence cheer me, For - sake me nev - er - more!
Re - mind me of Thy pas - sion When my last hour draws nigh.



When soul and bod - y lan - guish, O leave me not a - lone,
Mine eyes shall then be - hold Thee, Up - on Thy cross shall dwell,



But take a - way mine an - guish By vir - tue of Thine own!
My heart by faith en - fold Thee. Who di - eth thus dies well.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002988 Tune: Public domain

THE SEVENTH WORD

LUKE 23:44-46

P It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said,

C "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit!"

P And having said this He breathed His last.

PRAYER

P We praise You, O Christ, and we bless You.

C **By Your cross and precious death, You have redeemed the world.**

P When the death shades round us lower, Guard us from the tempter's power,

C **Keep us in that trial hour: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

P May Your life and death supply, Grace to live and grace to die,

C **Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, You have taken our sins in Your own body on the tree of the cross so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world, and through Your grace, eternal glory in the life to come; in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

VOCAL SOLO—JOSH HECKSEL

“WERE YOU THERE”

The Christ candle is extinguished, leaving the sanctuary in complete darkness. The strepitus, a loud sound symbolizing the completeness of Christ's sacrifice, is heard. A brief silence is observed to allow all to meditate upon the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. The congregation departs the sanctuary in silence, with confident hope and eager expectation of the Resurrection. Those who wish to remain and meditate upon our Lord's Passion may do so.

Acknowledgments

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**TRIDUUM "THREE DAYS" WORSHIP
CONTINUES TOMORROW!**

4/4 EASTER VIGIL, 7:45 P.M. (AT ST. JOHN, PLATO)

THEN

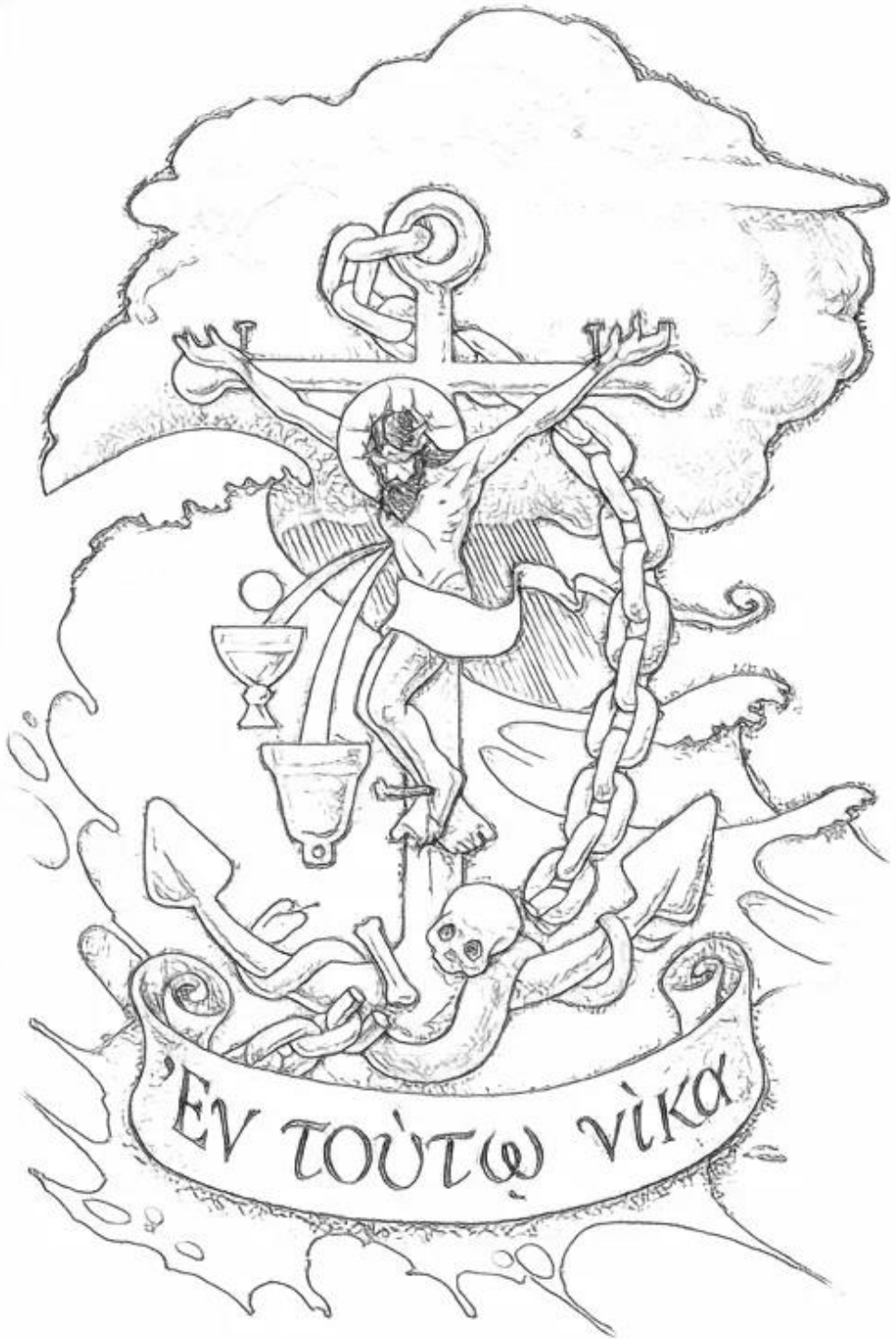
4/5 EASTER SUNDAY!

6:30 A.M. EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

7:30-8:45 A.M. EASTER BREAKFAST

8:15 A.M. *EASTER EGG HUNT*

9:00 A.M. FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION SERVICE



ΕΝ ΤΟΥΤΩ ΝΙΚΑ