



Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

Green Valley, Arizona

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, Rector
The Rev. Becky Williamson, Deacon
The Rev. Linda Hutson, Deacon

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28 APRIL 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

Anton Dvořák, 1841-1904

Preludium in D Major

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 47

1. On this day, the first of days,
God the Father's Name we praise,
who, creation's Lord and spring,
did the world from darkness bring.

2. On this day the eternal Son
over death his triumph won;
on this day the Spirit came
with his gifts of living flame.

3. Maker, who didst fashion me
image of thyself to be,
fill me with thy love divine,
let my every thought be thine.

4. Holy Jesus, may I be
dead and buried here with thee;
and, by love inflamed, arise
unto thee a sacrifice.

5. Thou, who dost all gifts impart,
shine, blest Spirit, in my heart;
best of gifts, thyself bestow;
make me burn thy love to know.

6. God, the blessed Three in One,
dwell within my heart alone;
thou dost give thyself to me:
help me give myself to thee.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed.
Alleluia.*

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.

People *Amen.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON *Please be seated.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40).

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he

was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (22:24-30) *Please respond at the half-verse*

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: * “May your heart live for ever!”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; * he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the First Letter of John (4:7-21).

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but

continued

that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN 296

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|---|--|
| 1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold; and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia! | 3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God. Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia! |
| 2. We share by water in his saving death. Reborn we share with him an Easter life as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia! | 4. A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia! Amen. |

THE GOSPEL *(Please stand if you are able)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (15:1-8).

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words

abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM VI *The People may stand, sit, or kneel*

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer our Bishop; and

for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all your people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We acknowledge the native peoples of the land on which we stand:

We pay our respects to the Pasqua Yaqui and Pima tribes for their care of this land.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the
power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts. (Psalm 96:8)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

Jakob Quadflieg, 1854-1915

Sicilian Mariners Hymn

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant God our refuge and our strength, receive all we offer you this day,
and through the death and resurrection of your Son transform us to his
likeness. We ask this in his name.

People Amen.

AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-
where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of
heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by
rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all
the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your
Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us
for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become
subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus
Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human

nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Together Our Father, who art in heaven...

...for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The elements are offered at the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. Please remember to follow Usher's directions.

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (to be said by all)

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 344

1. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace:
O refresh us, O refresh us
traveling through this wilderness.

2. Thanks we give and adoration
for thy Gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of thy salvation

in our hearts and lives abound:
ever faithful, ever faithful
to thy truth may we be found;

3. so that when thy love shall call us,
Savior, from the world away,
fear of death shall not appall us,
glad thy summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with thee in endless day.

Postlude in A Minor

We Welcome You

A warm welcome to all and, if you are a visitor, we encourage you to make yourself known to your fellow worshippers and to our St. Francis clergy. If you would like to know more about the Parish, please speak with Fr. Warren after the service or get in touch with him via email at: frwarren@st-francisgvaz.org. Please take the time to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher, greeter, or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you.

Tower Stained Glass Project

The Capital-Stained Glass Project in the Church Tower is complete. A Rededication ceremonial cutting of the ribbon by GLASS HAPPENS, Custom Stained-Glass Art owners, Peggy Terlisner and Karen Rans, will take place directly after the service this morning. Parishioners can exit the Nave into the Narthex and tour through the Tower pass-through into the Memorial Garden. This is a milestone in the continuing preservation of our magnificent community and St. Francis Church. *Jim Ratley*, Junior Warden

Food Bank Donations

In a generous and outreach-oriented congregation such as St. Francis, we are continually interested in developing new ministries to meet the needs of our community. As often happens, though, our long-standing, ongoing ministries already in place may then take a back seat to these newer ventures. An example of this is our support of the local

Food Banks. Food insecurity is one of those insidious yet “hidden” social issues in our community—yes, even in Green Valley. Our contributions of non-perishable foods on a regular basis is vital to the support of many in our midst. There are those of you who frequently do bring your contributions to the Food Bank and place them in the designated container in the Donations Room off the Parish Hall; but more participation would be most welcome. And so, HEARTS & HANDS has requested and received enthusiastic support of the clergy to highlight this vital ministry by having the food donations blessed at the altar on the first Sunday of each month, beginning Sunday, May 5. We believe that by keeping this ministry visibly before us we will be thankful for the food we enjoy every day and help to provide for those who are in need.

This Week at St. Francis

Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	Stewardship & Finance, Meeting Room 2

Kino Border Initiative

► Mexico border officials have asked for donations of hygiene products. Migrants are often deported with only the clothes on their backs. Please donate motel free items such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Look for the KINO box in the donation room.

► If you would like to provide more help to folks in need at the border, please drop some clean, reusable grocery bags in the KINO box in Donations room. These, and purchased Dollar store bags like them, will be put to good use by people heading home in Mexico

from Nogales who have no suitcase or backpack. The bags are greatly appreciated by those who've received them.

Hearts & Hands

► **IMAGO DEI GRADUATION.** Graduation for 20 Imago Dei scholars is set for Friday, May 17, at Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Avenue in Tucson. The exact time will be announced later. You are cordially invited to attend as "honorary grandparents!" To celebrate the accomplishments of these 20 scholars, please consider giving a donation to the fund to purchase \$100 Visa gift cards for the graduating scholars, a gift which has been the tradition at St. Francis in the Valley since 2011. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to St. Francis, with the notation "Imago Dei Graduation Gift" on the memo line. You may put your check in the offering plate, mail it to the church, deliver it to the Parish Office, or stop by the Imago Dei table at Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 5 or 12. Contact Barbara Bundy (571-332-8713, bjbundy@verizon.net) for more information.

Social Activities Spring Events

The Social Activities Team (SAT) is planning some fun activities this May. Come join us at Coffee Hour on Cinco de Mayo (Sunday May 5) for a taste of Mexico. Some cookies and salsa and chips to go along with your coffee. Help us celebrate.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, join us for a Pentecost Potluck. Everyone is invited. We'll provide the sandwiches and we're hoping that many of you will sign up to bring a salad or dessert which you can drop off in the Parish Hall on your way to church that morning. Come join us as we all celebrate The Day of Pentecost. Signing up for food donations will begin on Sunday, April 28, in the Parish Hall

after services.

During the summer, we'll be having our Movie Potluck suppers on Friday, June 28, Friday, July 26, and Friday, August 30. Watch for more information.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, or like to recommend a movie, contact, Tisha Stril at tishastril@gmail.com or Julie Reppenhagen at jrepp@snet.net. SAT looks forward to seeing you all.

Music Notes

When I was a kid—sometime back in the last Ice Age—most of the hymns we sang in church always ended with a sung 'Amen.' It seemed to me, even then, a rather dreary way to finish a hymn like, say, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation*. That hymn was particularly bothersome: the final words of the final stanza are '*Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.*' To follow that declaration with a gloomy *plagal cadence* (to use a technical term from music theory) always struck me as *goofy* (not a technical term from music theory). *Aye*, by the way, is an archaic word meaning 'ever' or 'for ever,' or 'forever.' It still crops up in hymns now and again.

Nowadays we rarely sing 'Amen' at the end of a hymn, even at the end of the so-called Doxology (*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*). You can make your way through our present Hymnal (1982) and you will be hard-pressed to find a printed 'Amen.' Leaf through the Hymnal 1940 (the Hymnal used by the Episcopal Church before the book we have in our pew racks) and you will find 'Amens' galore.

Occasionally a composer will purposely add an 'Amen' at the end of a hymntune, and our GRADUAL HYMN this morning is an exam-

ple of exactly that. Since the tune—ENGELBERG—is a great one written by an important composer of sacred music—Englishman Charles Villiers Stanford—there’s good reason to sing it. And so we shall. There are a few other hymns in our book with ‘Amens’ attached—mostly Gregorian chant Office Hymns—but the sung ‘Amen’ is, for the most part, a thing of the past. And to that I say, Amen. *Gerald*

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotion booklets for May, June, and July 2024 are now available in the Parish Hall and Parish Office.

Urgent Need (really)

We are looking for crucifers, acolytes, servers, and Altar Guild members, and the need is great and urgent. If you have experience in any of these areas of service, please consider stepping up to help. If you haven’t experience but are willing to learn, we will be delighted to train you. Questions? Get in touch with Fr. Warren and let him know of your interest.

Altar Flowers

Would you like the flowers on the altar to be given in thanksgiving or in remembrance of someone or something you cherish? If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 with your request. If she is not at home, leave your name and number and she will get back to you. Flower donation is \$35.

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at ijnrats@gmail.com.

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Henry Witte, John Witte, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Frank Brown, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Jean Schwafel, Jason Camp, Roger Williams, Ellen Sax, Joshua & Chaya Hexter, Jim Ravenelle, The Rev. Pat Kirk, Ann Zublin, BrandE Faupell, Skyler

Remembering those who have died: Charles Gardner

St. Francis in the Valley

Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, *Bishop*

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

Gerald Near, *Director of Music*

Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*

Gary LaBarre, *Senior Warden*

Jim Ratley, *Junior Warden*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*

Matthew Harby, *Lead Sexton*

Nathaniel Martinez, *Sexton*