



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*
Glenn Matto, *Verger*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
1 DECEMBER 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

Sleepers, wake!

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 56 (*stanzas 1 & 2*)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

**THE BLESSING AND LIGHTING
OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Officiant May God almighty, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify with the light of his blessing this Advent Wreath, and may he whose Second Coming in great power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People *Amen.*

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near.

People *O come let us adore him. Alleluia!*

Officiant We light the first candle on our Advent Wreath recalling the hope we have in Christ.

(The first candle is lighted.)

Officiant Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for sending your son Jesus, the one foretold by the prophets, the one on whom we place all our hope. Help us prepare our hearts for His coming again.

People *To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls: In you, O God, we trust.*

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People *You come to your people and set them free.*

Together 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. Amen.

TRISAGION

Celebrant Holy God.
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One.

People *Have mercy upon us.*

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson *(Please be seated)*

A Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (33:14-16).

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM (25:1-9) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Lesson from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (3:9-13).

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 59

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."
2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;

let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

4. so when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.
5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

THE GOSPEL *(please stand, as you are able)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (21:25-36).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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 Fa-

ther. 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 IV) *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (remembering especially); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled (remembering especially); and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for the generous support of St. Francis parishioners for the work of Imago Dei Middle School. Bless the school, its students, faculty and all who assist this blessed ministry to thrive.

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather:

We pay our respects to the Pasqua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham (thaw-naw awe thumb), as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

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

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

David Thorne, b. 1950

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song. He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield. He comes, the broken heart to bind, the wounded soul to cure; and with the treasures of his grace enrich the humble poor. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name. Amen.

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant God our strength,
we are nothing without you.
Receive all we offer you this day
as you sustain us with your mercy;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your only beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 may stand, sit, or kneel.

(Celebrant) We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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, simply cross your arms over your chest. After receiving Communion, if you would like personal prayers for yourself or others, members of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) will be available in the Chapel to pray with and for you.

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 Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 616

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:

before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

4. Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

5. O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of Love.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Gerald Near, b. 1942

Sleepers, wake!

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 or get in touch with him via email at frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you.

Imago Dei Middle School

Imago Dei Middle School is a tuition-free, community-supported school that serves students in Grades 4 through 8 from low-income families. The school operates under the umbrella of the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation and is focused on breaking the cycle of poverty through education. St. Francis has been supporting it since 2011 with parishioners annually serving on the Board, donating gift cards to graduating "scholars," choosing to give their Arizona Tax Credit to

Imago Dei, and generously making gifts and memorials to the school. The contact person is Barbara Bundy.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conf Rm
Tuesday, 10a	Advent Study Class, Parish Hall
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 1p	Finance Committee, Conference Room
Thursday, 11a	Stewardship, Stephen Ministry Room
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Friday, 5p	Festival of Trees
Saturday, 2p	Festival of Trees
Sunday, 2p	Festival of Trees

Blue Christmas

Not all people find the Christmas and New Year holidays a time of joy, but rather a time of loneliness, sorrow, pain, or grief. In recognition of these "blue" feelings, St. Francis will offer a BLUE CHRISTMAS service on Sunday, December 15, at 3 PM. Please join us—and invite any friends or neighbors who may be experiencing such blue feelings—to this service of readings, prayer, and some music appropriate to the season. We pray that those who experience these holidays as not very merry or bright will come and find hope and comfort in knowing that they are not alone.

Thank You

"It takes a village" is an often used phrase indicating how important each member of a group are to the success of an organization. At St. Francis each of you make a variety of important contributions to the successful goals of our Parish. We often hear the words time, talent, and treasure. You provide your

time and talent to many activities. Most recently, you have indicated that in 2025 you will share part of your treasure to support the Parish. Thank you for returning your estimate of giving forms. Without these forms, it would be extremely difficult to develop a budget for 2025. Thank you to those who choose not to return a form, but who provide regular financial support to the Parish. Thank you to each of you who provide directed gifts to specific needs and missions. By providing financial support, you all help St. Francis to continue to provide strong worship and fellowship opportunities and to be a vibrant force in our community.

Your Stewardship Committee

Christmas Flower Request Form

The form for Christmas flower donations is available on tables at all entrances to the Church and in the Parish Office. The form, and a check for your \$30 donation, should be brought to the Parish Office (or you may snail mail it) no later than Tuesday, December 17. Please make every effort to print legibly, and be sure to include your name and phone number as indicated on the Form. Christmas flowers may be given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for God's many blessings. Your gift will be noted in the service leaflet for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Social Activities Upcoming

The Social Activities Team is planning lots of fun activities for December and January.

On Sunday, December 15, Bishop Reddall will be visiting St. Francis. After the service we will be having a delicious lunch in the Parish Hall. Plan on joining us for sandwiches, salad, baked beans and delicious cake,

On Wednesday, December 18, from 5 to 7 PM, we will be celebrating our annual Christmas Card Party, in support of the Covenant Fund. Attendees are asked to bring a Christmas Card to hang on our tree and, inside the card, their gift to the Covenant Fund. We will be serving lots of tasty hors d'oeuvres (shrimp, meatballs, roll-ups, and more) and also many luscious desserts. You can register after services on Sundays or by calling the Parish Office during the week (520- 625-1370).

On Tuesday, January 7, from 5 to 7 PM, we will be putting on an Epiphany Party International Dinner. Sign up for a country, decorate a table in that country's tradition, and bring traditional food for all to share. Watch for more details.

If you'd like to help out with any of our activities, contact Tisha Stril at tishastril@gmail.com or Julie Reppenhagen at jrepp@snet.net. Your Social Activities Team looks forward to seeing you all. Happy Holiday Season

Festival of Trees

Tommy and Craig Reid and their festival team are busy with all the details that need to be accomplished for the Festival of Trees to be a success. There are still opportunities for you to participate. One pressing need is for volunteers to help set up the 30 plus trees. If you can help, check with Craig Reid for days and times. Volunteers will be needed during the three days of the festival for a myriad of tasks and there are a number of items that are needed if you prefer to donate, and money to help defray costs is always welcome. For a list of needed items or other volunteer opportunities, email Tommy and Craig at ca-reid01@icloud.com.

An Opportunity to Serve

Bishop Jennifer Reddall is looking for two Episcopalians to sit on the St. Andrew's, Nogales, Pre-School Board. Meetings are held at 1 PM monthly or as required. Please speak to Fr. Warren if interested.

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for November and December (2024), and January 2025, are now available in the Parish Office and Parish Hall.

Prayer Chain

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

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Kelly Davis, Shirley Underwood, Frank Brown, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Jean Schwafel, Jason Camp, Ellen Sax, Joshua & Chaya Hexter, Jim Ravenelle, Ann Zublin, Bob Hutson, Halley Hutson, Stephen North, Wil, Carolyn, Jerry Lounsberry, Sue, Bonnie Haifley, Nancy Neimeyer, Laura Thomas, Eva Jenkins, Bob Long.

Remembering those who have died: pray for the departed.

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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