



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 AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
29 DECEMBER 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

John Ireland, 1879-1962

The Holy Boy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 100

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing. | 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found. |
| 2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains, repeat the sounding joy. | 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love. |

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (*Glory to God in the highest*)

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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson (*Please be seated*)

A Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (61:10—62:3).

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (147:13-21) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of
your gates; * he has blessed your
children within you.

15 He has established peace on your
borders; * he satisfies you with the
finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the
earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;
* who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts
them; * he blows with his wind, and
the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, * his
statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other na-
tion; * to them he has not revealed his
judgments.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

A Lesson from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (3:23-25; 4:4-7).

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 324

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (1:1-18).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 Sean our Presiding Bishop, and for 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.

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

*We pay our respects to the Pasqua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham,
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, HYMN 115

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|--|---|
| 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping? | 3. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. |
| 2. This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary. | 4. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. |

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,
 and give us generous hearts to serve you in
 all who claim our help.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
People 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 every-
where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of
heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us;
who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect
Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might
be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to
become your children.

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,

continued

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 82

1. Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2. O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

3. Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

4. Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

From heaven above

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.

Parish Offices Closed

Our Parish Offices will be closed Wednes-

day, January 1, New Years' Day. The regular Wednesday, 9 AM Eucharist **WILL BE** celebrated that day. Happy New Year!

International Dinner

THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Team has an exciting new event for next year. The INTERNATIONAL DINNER on Saturday, February 22, at 5 PM is a potluck that allows you to enjoy the cuisine of another country. Sign-up in the Parish Hall for a country already decided upon, or you can choose a new country. Each table will have hosts to coordinate among the others who will make main dishes, side dishes and desserts. Plan to decorate your table to

represent the country. After dinner at your table, there will be an opportunity to travel to the other tables and sample the leftovers! Here's a great opportunity to meet new people at St. Francis and to invite friends and neighbors. Currently, we have tables to Poland, Portugal, Mexico and Hawaii. *Your Social Activities Team*

Bible Study

The WOMEN OF THE BIBLE class will continue, starting January 14, and will run for 7 weeks. The class will be held in the Parish Hall from 10:30 AM to 12 PM. If you were in the Fall class, you do not need to do anything, just show up on January 14. If you wish to join the class, please email Mike Kuebler at mikelkuebler@yahoo.com. Sending an email allows Mike to easily create an email class list. Please include your phone number in your email.

Heart and Hands

HEART AND HANDS has had a busy November and December. A big shout out and hearty thanks to St. Francis' Christmas Elves. There is amazing joy in giving. GREEN VALLEY ASSISTANCE clients were surprised by the 49 gift bags you filled. Local fire fighters delivered them with a Christmas turkey to celebrate the day. Children of the Pasqua Yaqui Nation were able to choose and wrap fantastic gifts for their parents and grandparents at the boutique store supplied by you and St. Philips. The children and various family had a great time at the Angel Tree party Saturday. All the Franciscans who joined the party had even more fun.

Thank you for your gifts of time during this busy season and your generous gifts of treasure—almost \$1900—and your talent which shines in all you do. *The Heart & Hands Team*

Voices and Bells

New members are urgently needed for our Parish Choir and Handbell Ensemble. These two music groups are the long-standing backbone of liturgical music-making at St. Francis. You don't have to be a professional musician to be a contributing member of either group (we have professionals ready and eager to assist you). The Parish Choir meets to rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 2 until 4 o'clock. To join the group contact Music Director Gerald Near (gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org). To become a member of the Handbell Ensemble (they meet Monday mornings from 10 o'clock until NOON) get in touch with Director Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037 or, via email, at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

Boutique Items 30% Off

Today, Sunday, December 29, all Boutique Christmas merchandise is 30% off! There are still beautiful items available that you can enjoy now and appreciate the savings for next Christmas! Everybody loves a bargain; come see us after the 9 o'clock service. *Jylene Wright*

This Week at St. Francis

Wednesday, 9a Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Solo Journeymen

The Solo Group will again be getting together for a luncheon at 11:30 AM on Sunday, January 5, 2025, at the Quail Creek Grill (1490 Quail Range Loop, Green Valley, AZ 85614). Contact Kristi Thompson (520-207-0465) for more information. Look for the signup sheet in the Parish Hall today.

A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved

ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

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, jnrats@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, Haley Hutson, Stephen North, Wil, Carolyn, Jerry Lounsberry, Sue, Bonnie Haifley, Nancy Neimeyer, Sharon Adams, Laura Thomas, Eva Jenkins, Stan Ravine, Lorraine Albin Miklovich, Joanne Wolfe Sprague.

Remembering those who have died: pray for the departed.

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, *Bishop*

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The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

Barb Lopes, *Deacon-Intern*

Glenn Matto, *Verger*

Gerald Near, *Director of Music and
Parish Communications*

Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*

Megan McAllister, *Finance Assistant*

Gary LaBarre, *Senior Warden*

Jim Ratley, *Junior Warden*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*

Sophia Witte, *Handbell Ensemble director*

Matthew Harby, *Lead Sexton*

Nathaniel Martinez, *Sexton*