



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, Rector
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, Curate
The Rev. Becky Williamson, Deacon

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
18 APRIL 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN 212

1. Awake, arise, lift up your voice,
let Easter music swell;
rejoice in Christ, again rejoice
and on his praises dwell.
2. Oh, with what gladness and surprise
the saints their Savior greet;
nor will they trust their ears and eyes
but by his hands and feet,
3. those hands of liberal love indeed
in infinite degree,
those feet still free to move and bleed
for millions and for me.
4. His enemies had sealed the stone
as Pilate gave them leave,
lest dead and friendless and alone
he should their skill deceive.
5. O Dead arise! O Friendless stand
by seraphim adored!
O Solitude again command
your host from heaven restored!

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (3:12-19).

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (4) *Please respond at the half-verse*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; * you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; * how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; * when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; * speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices * and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” * Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, * more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; * for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

The Epistle

A Reading from the First Letter of John (3:1-7)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 182

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now
and conquer every place and time.

3. Not throned above, remotely high,
untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
our Savior with the Father reigns.

4. In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.

5. Christ is alive! His Spirit burns
through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns
his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (24:36b-48).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

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 IV)

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; 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; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We acknowledge the native peoples of the land on which we stand:
We pay our respects to the Pascua Yaqui and Pima tribes for their care of this land.

Silence

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.

The Priest alone stands and says

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN 343

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| 1. Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock. | 3. Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart. |
| 2. We would not live by bread alone,
but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on
to our abiding-place. | 4. Lord, sup with us in love divine
thy Body and thy Blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food. |

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,
People And of thine own have we given thee.

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 everywhere 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 Lord, we died with you on the cross.

People Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant We were buried in your tomb.

People Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant Live in us, that we may live in you.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 210

1. The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents,
may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful,
let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes together blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 (always keeping in mind the present need for social distancing). If you would like to know more about the Parish please speak with Fr. Warren or Fr. Nelson after the service or get in touch with them via email at: frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org or nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org. They will be very pleased to hear from you.

Next Sunday

Our former Assistant Rector, The Rev. Canon Pam Hyde, will be the preacher next Sunday, April 25, at an online bilingual Morning Prayer service sponsored by the diocesan Creation Care Ministry in honor of Earth Day. **Please Note: there will not be a service here at St. Francis next Sunday, April 25.**

You can access the online service, starting at 10 AM, on the Diocesan You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/azdiocese1>

For more information about the Creation Care Ministry, visit their website: <https://creation.azdiocese.org>.

Weekend Worship at St. Francis

In May we hope to be once again, and with much rejoicing, worshipping in the church proper. Service time will be 9 AM. We must continue to bring and wear our masks and remember to practice social distancing (unless you are a couple). Reservations will still be necessary until we are otherwise informed by the Diocese. Reserve your place with the Parish Administrator via email (preferred), at gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org

or, alternatively, you may call the Parish Office—520-625-1370—and leave a message for Parish Administrator Gerald Near. Please be sure to include first and last names of worshippers as well the date of the service you wish to attend. (We are not able to take reservations for multiple services, only the next service upcoming.) We will not reply to your email, or phone call, unless we are at capacity. *Please remember the weekly deadline for reservations is, and will continue to be, Thursdays at 2 PM.*

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in May we will no longer be offering ‘communion to go’ in its present format (i.e. picking up a communion wafer here at the Church on Saturday afternoons). If you need a wafer, please contact Fr. Warren (frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org), Father Nelson (nelson@stfranciscgvaz.org), or Deacon Becky (1beckyw@cox.net) and they will make arrangements for you to pick one up at the Parish Office. (You may also leave a phone message for the Clergy at 520-625-1370.) Sunday service leaflets will be available Saturdays on the bench outside the Parish Office.

Wednesday Zoom Coffee Hours To Resume

Join Fr. Warren for his 10 AM Wednesday coffee hours via Zoom. He will be including ongoing discussions from the Lenten Living Well study. Email him directly and he will send you the necessary link (frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org).

Seeing the Future

Are you interested in seeing the church energized as we move beyond the pandemic? If the answer is yes, then I need you! I am putting together a small group to talk about

the future opportunities and mission of the Parish. I am also rebooting the STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE. It is *Not* just about money! Stewardship is a year round living out of our baptismal call that involves our time and sharing of talents, as well as how we support our ministries to live our mission to be the Heart and Hands of Jesus.

If you are interested in one or both, please contact me at frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org

Outreach News

April is with us and we are collecting canned fruit, vegetables and soup for the Community Food Bank. Parishioners certainly started the month off with a bang donating 170 pounds of canned goods. Feel free to bring your offerings to church at any time. There is a basket available as you enter the courtyard from the parking lot. Staff and volunteers will also be available to receive your offerings as you pick up your wafers on Saturday afternoon and, as always, the basket will be there for you when you come to church Sunday morning.

Outreach has also learned that both The Inn and Casas Alitas, shelters for those seeking asylum, are needing backpacks and small individual hand sanitizers. A box will be outside the Parish Hall door for these items.

Altar Flowers

The coronavirus pandemic has made it necessary to downsize our services and many things related to them, including altar flower displays. As an alternative to a large array on Easter Day, we suggest giving flowers for a specific Sunday throughout the Easter season and beyond. Should you wish to give flowers in memoriam or as a thanksgiving, we will acknowledge your dedication in

the service leaflet as we have always done. Make your wishes known to Carol Berg (520-373-5770) and she will make the proper arrangements. Flower donations are \$35. Let us hope that next year we will be able to fill the church with blooms for both Easter and Christmas.

Covenant Fund

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional Christmas Card Party, the annual event that raises money for the St. Francis Covenant Fund. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, and you can help relieve the suffering by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby, or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

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