



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Daniel J. Messier, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Mike Kuebler, *Deacon*
Glenn Matto, *Verger*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CELEBRATING CREATION CARE

26 APRIL 2026

ORGAN PRELUDE

G. Winston Cassler, 1906-90

Prelude on the tune 'Bunessan' (Morning has broken)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 8

1. Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where his feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People *The Holy One's love is new every morning.*

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)

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 Creator be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT (*The Collect for the Feast of Francis of Assisi*)

God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The First Lesson (*Please be seated*)

A Lesson from The Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47).

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM (23) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want. | along right pathways for his Name's sake. |
| 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
* and leads me beside still waters. | 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. |
| 3 He revives my soul * and guides me | |

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Lesson from the First Letter of Peter (2:19-25).

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 405

Refrain

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors,
he made their tiny wings. *Refrain*

2. The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,

the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky, *Refrain*

3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one. *Refrain*

4. He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. *Refrain*

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (10:1-10).

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he

has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Daniel J. Messier

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 *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, “Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.”

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained along side human activity, we pray:
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need [especially], and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Please add your personal intentions silently or aloud

Leader Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you.
Hear the prayers of your people.

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.

Together Almighty and everliving God, you are with us in every transition and change. Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide the Search Committee, Vestry and parish family to be of one heart and mind in our search for a new Rector who will be your faithful servant and who will minister to your flock. By your light, O Lord, draw us to those with vision and passion for St. Francis' future. Guide them as they discern your call. Raise up for us a faithful pastor and dynamic preacher of your gospel, who will shepherd us as your flock. Strengthen our ministries and work with us in the building of your kingdom. Amen.

Celebrant Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

Minister and People together

God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationship with all creation. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of the creatures who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for all creatures, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYER (TO BE SAID BY ALL)

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life and for all the blessings you have poured upon your servants celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, especially those standing before us today. As they begin another year, we pray that you continue to guide, protect, and shower them with your grace. May this new year be filled with love, joy, and peace, as they walk closer to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*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 746 (WONDER, LOVE, AND PRAISE HYMNAL)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation,
we are formless; shape us now. | 2. God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar of the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
you are gate of all deliv'rance,
we are sightless; lead us now. |
|---|--|

continued

3. God the unexpected infant,
God the calm, determined youth,
God the table turning prophet,
God the resurrected Truth:
you are present every moment,
we are searching; meet us now.

4. God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
you are host at every table,
we are hungry; feed us now.

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant Gracious God, accept these gifts,
and with them our lives, to be used in your service;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Creator be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Creator.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our loving God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Celebrant) We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

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. The Celebrant continues
Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.
On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”
Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Francis and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and 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 This is the Living Bread, given for all Creation.

People All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body

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 may be received by taking a sip from the common cup (preferred method), or by intinction (dipping your host into the wine). If you prefer intinction, you dip it immediately in the small cup after receiving it from the clergy. 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 Creator God, you set the tree of life at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church; grant that we who have been nourished at this table may ever strive to work for the good of all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 738 (*WONDER, LOVE, AND PRAISE HYMNAL*)

Refrain

Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
tell the news, the Gospel spread!

Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
tell Christ risen from the dead!

1. Sing of the sun from darkness appearing,
sing of the seed from barren earth greening,
sing of creation, alleluia!

Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing;
sing of the saints in water made holy;
sing of salvation, alleluia! *Refrain*

2. Sing now of mourning turned into dancing,
sing now the myst'ry, hope of our glory,
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!

Sing now of fasting turned into feasting,
sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;
sing all things living, alleluia! *Refrain*

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Thomas Roseingrave, 1690-1750

Allegro Pomposo

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. 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; and plan to join us in the Parish Hall following the service for a cup of coffee.

Earth Day at St. Francis

Today's service will celebrate Earth Day. The music and liturgy have been carefully coordinated, and additional activities are scheduled to take place during coffee hour. We especially welcome sixth grade speaker

Adalia Armenta and Randy Peterson, Development Officer from Imago Dei Middle School. After the service, please collect your coffee in the Vulliamy Room, then proceed to the Parish Hall for Tom Cadwalader's "Natural Wonders" media presentation and the Eco-Swap event. And don't forget to say "hi" to Sully.

Prison Ministry

It is time to return the Camp Genesis Prayer Hearts. Please bring the Heart and a note or card to the camper to the Parish Office or Prison Ministry table. The notes should be encouraging and positive. Please do not mention anything about the camper's family or living situation. Thank you for your support. *Rena Robbins*

Loving Our Neighbors

▶ The LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS committee purchased 12 hand-held shower heads for Lutheran Social Services (LSS); an additional six were purchased by private donation. LSS in Nogales serves low income individuals in Santa Cruz and Cochise counties with home health care. The shower heads are a requested item.

▶ Crossroads Nogales Mission is looking for people to help serve meals. If you would like to lend a hand contact the mission at 520-287-5828.

▶ Sister Jose Women's Shelter has an Amazon Wish List for most needed items. Please check out Ways To Give on their website sisterjose.org to find the list. Sister Jose's is always in need of new underwear, new socks, used athletic shoes and hygiene products. THERE IS A NEW REQUEST from Sister Jose's: they are asking for belts. If you have belts to donate please place them in the donation box. They continue to need athletic shoes and packages of new underwear. Consider checking their website for most current information about the expansion.

▶ Imago Dei Graduation for sixteen Imago Dei scholars is set for Friday, May 15, at Second Sky Community Center, 4141 East Irvington Street, Tucson, at 5:30 PM. (Please note: this is a new location!) You are cordially invited to attend as "honorary grandparents!" To celebrate the accomplishments of these sixteen scholars, please consider giving a donation to the fund to gift each of the graduating scholars with \$100, 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 basket, mail it to the church, deliver it to the Parish Office, or stop by the Imago Dei table at Coffee Hour on Sundays, April 19, April 26, and May 3. Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity. *Barbara Bundy*

May/June Newsletter

Copy for the next issue (May/June, 2026) of the St. Francis Parish newsletter (The Franciscan Staff) is now due; please send your copy—via email—to gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org as soon as possible.

This Week at St. Francis

Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Cpl
Wednesday, 3p	Search Committee, Conference Room
Friday, 4p	Praise Singers

From your A/V Team

It's exciting to see the increased activity we are seeing on our YouTube Channel. Our Easter Service was viewed 99 times, which is wonderful. Additionally, two of the "shorts" have pretty much set records for us—the Easter Basket event and the second of the Lenten skits were viewed 1,981/934 times, respectively. We encourage viewers to be sure to comment or like/thumbs up any of the videos you watch, as this lets the A/V Team know what is liked and what areas might be improved upon. An added benefit to comments/likes is that YouTube uses that activity to offer channels up to others to view.

From your Treasurer

It's heartwarming to know our Parishioners have not forgotten those with far fewer resources and opportunities than the majority of us enjoy. Not only was there tremen-

dous support for the CAMP GENESIS transportation fund-raiser, but one of our Parish families also made a substantial contribution to the LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS fund to be used in support of the many outreach opportunities for those in need. It is my pleasure to acknowledge and offer thanks to all for your generosity. *Gloria Cadwalader*, Parish Treasurer

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort,
at easy answers, half-truths
and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
oppression and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice,
freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears, to shed for
those who suffer pain, rejection,
hunger and war.

So that you may reach out your hand to
comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough
foolishness to believe that you can make a
difference in the world,
so that you can do what others
claim cannot be done to bring justice and
kindness to all our children and the poor.

Amen.

Prayer Chain

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

Centering Prayer

The St. Francis Centering Prayer Group meets off-campus via Zoom; if you would like to know more about the group and how

to participate, contact Sophie Luffman at *s.luffman@icloud.com* or 520-262-3876.

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Kelly Davis, Delilah Wegrzyn, Jean Schwafel, Jim Ravenelle, Bob Hutson, Linda Hutson, Jerry Lounsberry, Bonnie Haifley, Eva Jenkins, Isaac Garcia, Tomi Adams, Stephen North, Connie Nord, Paul Deysenroth, Elaine Deysenroth, Clark Adams, Ken Mattson, Lee Parks, Joyce Davison, Pat Ryan, Neal Hursh, Barbara Hook, Terry Bonser. Pray for those who have died, remembering especially Gary Bates, Mohammad Alizada.

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, *Bishop*
The Rev. Daniel J. Messier, *Interim Rector*
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The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*
Glenn Matto, *Verger*
Gerald Near, *Director of Music,*
Parish Communications
Deborah Harby, *Parish Administrator,*
Finance Officer
Megan McAllister, *Junior Finance Officer*
Gary LaBarre, *Senior Warden*
Mark Stril, *Junior Warden*
J. Michael Case, *Organist*
Sophia Witte, *Handbell Ensemble Director*
Matthew Harby, *Lead Sexton*
Nathaniel Martinez, *Sexton*