



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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
3 MAY 2026

We appreciate the silencing of all electronic devices and ask that, out of respect for those who wish to pray quietly or listen to the music played on the organ, all conversation be held until coffee hour following the service, to which all are cordially invited.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1877-1933

Jesus Christ, with us abide

OPENING HYMN 518

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

2. All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

4. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

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

THE COLLECT

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

THE FIRST LESSON (*Please be seated*)

A Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles (7:55-60).

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

THE PSALM (31:1-5, 15-16) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; * for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have

secretly set for me, * for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, * for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; * rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, * and in your loving-kindness save me.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Lesson from the First Letter of Peter (2:2-10).

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,
and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

GRADUAL HYMN 457

1. Thou art the Way, to thee alone
from sin and death we flee;
and all who would the Father seek,
must seek him, Lord, by thee.
2. Thou art the Truth, thy word alone
true wisdom can impart;
thou only canst inform the mind
and purify the heart.
3. Thou art the Life, the rending tomb
proclaims thy conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in thee
nor death nor hell shall harm.
4. Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life:
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (14:1-14).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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 God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

Leader We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us. God of love,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble. Give them courage and hope in their distress and bless those who minister to them. (especially...) God of love,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations. God of love,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory. God of love,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that

we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom. (especially...) God of love,

People hear our prayer.

Leader We invite you to add your personal prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

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

We pay our respects to the Pascua 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 O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; unite us in bonds of love; and work through us to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People together

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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

Randall Thompson, 1899-1984

Blessed Jesus, we are here

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 (*Eucharistic Prayer B; Expansive Language version*)

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 Christ's death he has destroyed death, and by Christ's 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

The Celebrant continues

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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 Christ's death,

We proclaim Christ's resurrection,

We await Christ's coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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!

AGNUS DEI

Celebrant Jesus, Lamb of God:

People have mercy on us.

Celebrant Jesus, bearer of our sins:

People have mercy on us.

Celebrant Jesus, redeemer of the world:

People give us your peace.

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

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 341

1. For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.
2. By this pledge, Lord, that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.
3. As our blessed ones adore you,
seated at our Father's board,
may the Church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
4. In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward,
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Johann Seb. Bach, 1685-1750

Christ lay in the bonds of death

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.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Holy Eucha-

rist will be celebrated May 9 at 4 PM in the Chapel. We look forward to seeing you.

This Week at St. Francis

Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conf Rm
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Cpl
Friday, 4p	Praise Singers
Saturday, 4p	Holy Eucharist, Chapel

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.

▶ 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. 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*

About Our Prayer Lists...

We are always glad to pray for those who need our prayers. But sometimes we lose track of people who have offered names for our Prayer List. We have recently removed some names that have been on the list for a long time. If it's someone you feel should be

on the list, please contact the Parish Office and we'll add the names once again. To help keep up to date on the list, we are using the following guideline: names will remain on the Prayer List for one month unless otherwise requested. Please notify the Parish Office of names rather than just adding them to the list on Sunday, or talk to Fr. Dan on Sunday morning. We'll do our best to meet everyone's needs.

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.

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.

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for May, June, and July 2026, are now available in the Parish Office, Narthex, and Parish Hall.

Music Notes

In 1932 the organist and composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert (author of this morning's organ prelude) embarked on an ill-fated concert tour of the United States. Americans were used to good—indeed, virtuosic—organ playing from such luminaries as the great French organist Marcel Dupré, and were not taken with Karg-Elert's less than dazzling technique. No doubt his mediocre performances were further degraded by diabetes—the disease which would take his life in 1933—and the habit of chain-smoking. Karg-Elert's contribution as a composer of organ literature is, however, impressive and immensely valuable.

When I began to study organ playing—in the mid-50s—my lessons were given at the local Episcopal Cathedral, a lovely Gothic building in downtown Minneapolis. The organ was a very large, romantic affair with four manuals (keyboards) set in a hulking console the size of a small truck. On the right jamb of the Great manual (the piece of wood at the end of the second keyboard) there was a cigarette burn which, I many years later learned, was the result of Sigfrid Karg-Elert's smoking while practicing for a recital at the Cathedral in 1932. The old console has long-since disappeared; but I wish someone had preserved, somehow, Karg-Elert's cigarette burn.

Johann Sebastian Bach, who probably didn't smoke while practicing the organ, wrote many smaller works for the instrument based on chorale melodies (works known as 'chorale preludes'); they are, without exception, masterpieces of contrapuntal writing. This morning's Organ Postlude, one of Bach's greatest chorale preludes, is based on the tune *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ

lay in the bonds of death), No. 186 in the Hymnal 1982. Bach also produced a Cantata based on the *Christ lag* tune (Cantata No. 4) which is, again, a very great work.

American composer Randall Thompson, author of the today's Organ Offertory, is best known as the composer of what is, in my view, the most iconic piece of American choral music (and it's a setting of only one word!) the famous 'Alleluia.' *Gerald*

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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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*