



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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
2 MAY 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN 47

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng,
psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord;
over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings,
safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth
prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

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

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

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40).

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he

was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (22:24-30) *Please respond at the half-verse*

24 My praise is of him in the great
assembly; * I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship
him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall
praise him: *
“May your heart live for ever!”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remem-
ber and turn to the LORD, * and all
the families of the nations shall bow
before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the
earth bow down in worship; * all
who go down to the dust fall before
him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD’S for
ever.

30 They shall come and make known to
a people yet unborn * the saving
deeds that he has done.

The Epistle

A Reading from the First Letter of John (4:7-21)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 512

1. Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,
with light and comfort from above;
be thou our guardian, thou our guide;
o'er every thought and step preside.

2. The light of truth to us display,
and make us know and choose thy way;
plant holy fear in every heart,
that we from thee may ne'er depart.

3. Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his precepts stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with God.

4. Lead us to heaven, that we may share
fullness of joy for ever there;
lead us to God, our final rest,
to be with him for ever blest.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (15:1-8).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The 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 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 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!"

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 344

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace:
O refresh us, O refresh us
traveling through this wilderness. | 2. Thanks we give and adoration
for thy Gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of thy salvation
in our hearts and lives abound:
ever faithful, ever faithful
to thy truth may we be found; |
| 3. so that when thy love shall call us,
Savior, from the world away,
fear of death shall not appall us,
glad thy summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with thee in endless day. | |

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.

Weekend Worship at St. Francis

We are overjoyed to be once again worshipping in our church proper (service time 9 AM). Even though we are definitely making progress toward a return to normalcy, there are still pandemic protocols to be observed. 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 this month 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.

New Study

With permission from Robbin Brent from *Living Compass*, I will be allowed to use a new study called CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES AND WELL BEING. This study begins on Wednesday, June 2, at 10 AM on Zoom. The booklet is not yet published, but I will be able to share a PDF of the booklet. If interested, please email me (frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org). There are four sessions.

Fr. Warren

National Day of Prayer

You are invited to join St. Francis in the Valley and other interfaith partners during the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6. Throughout the day, different places of worship around Green Valley will be opening up for prayer to gather and pray for our community, the nation, and the world. St. Francis will be opening our church space from 10 to 11 AM for Noonday Prayer, a special musical meditation, and other prayerful activities. No RSVP needed, just come on by and join us in prayer!

“Becoming the Church Together” Series

IMMIGRATION, THE BIBLE, AND
OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

“Together we will embark on a course to study the Bible and see how it addresses the issue of modern-day immigration. Our goal will be to foster an open, honest, loving, and biblically focused conversation about this important—and challenging—topic. Each lesson focuses on Scripture, while incorporating prayer, activities, videos, and group discussion to help everyone investigate how faith in Christ affects views on immigration. Even as we study issues related to United States law and policy, our first responsibility will always be to examine God’s witness and imagine appropriate responses for our churches as we strive to be disciples of Jesus Christ together.

As a loving family, we should make our best efforts to be open and honest with one another. We invite you to be thoughtful and share your thoughts with your brothers and sisters in Christ, while also listening intently to others. Each of us should assume that we have something to learn from others. Finally, since most of the lessons focus on having conversation, please help create a “safe” space, where everyone feels welcome and loved whether they agree or disagree.

As we begin reading scripture and applying the truth to how we treat our new neighbors, we can have faith that God will be present with us and guiding us towards loving God and loving our fellow human beings in deeper ways.”

We will meet in-person on Mondays starting July 12 from 10:30 AM to 12 PM, or online Tuesdays starting July 13 from 10:30 AM to 12 PM.

Please email our Curate, the Rev. Nelson Mendoza (nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org), with any questions or to sign up for either in-person or online classes. In-person classes will be limited to 20 participants, and social distancing requirements will be observed.

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

Fr. Warren

Outreach News

Congratulations Parishioners! You donated 135 pounds of canned fruit, vegetables and soup just in these last two weeks. Food Bank customers thank you. Now in May it is time to think about the children. We will be collecting baby food (remember, no glass), wipes and diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6. The food collection basket continues to be at the courtyard entrance and we will now have one inside the church as you enter. Let’s make sure it overflows.