



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Green Valley, Arizona

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
28 JANUARY 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

Andreas Armsdorff, 1670-99

How bright appears the Morning Star

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 427

1. When morning gilds the skies,
my heart, awaking, cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
2. When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
hath none that can compare
with: Jesus Christ be praised!
3. No lovelier antiphon
in all high heaven is known
than, Jesus Christ be praised!
There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
4. Ye nations of mankind,
in this your concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
5. Sing, suns and stars of space,
sing, ye that see his face,
sing, Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er,
both now and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

THE OPENING SENTENCE

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

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

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.

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON *(please be seated)*

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (18:15-20).

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who

presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

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

THE PSALM (111) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, * in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. | 6 He has shown his people the power of his works * in giving them the lands of the nations. |
| 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! * they are studied by all who delight in them. | 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; * all his commandments are sure. |
| 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, * and his righteousness endures for ever. | 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, * because they are done in truth and equity. |
| 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; * the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. | 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; * holy and awesome is his Name. |
| 5 He gives food to those who fear him; * he is ever mindful of his covenant. | 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; * those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever. |

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (8:1-13).

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

continued

For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN 493

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| 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace! | 4. He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe. |
| 2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth
abroad the honors of thy Name. | 5. Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold, your Savior comes;
and leap, ye lame, for joy! |
| 3. Jesus! the Name that charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace. | 6. Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven. |

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark (1:21-28).

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON: The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Form VI) *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer our Bishop; and
for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your
Church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next
presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all your
people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the
power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THE OFFERTORY

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

Christopher Wiggins, b. 1956

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all people. (Philippians 4:4-5)

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,
and give us generous hearts to serve you in
all who claim your help.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

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 every-
where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have
caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge
of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and
Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever
sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people may stand, sit, or kneel.

Celebrant 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 We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

People God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The elements are offered at the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. Please remember to follow Usher's directions.

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (TO BE SAID BY ALL)

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 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 Rejoicing

We Welcome You

A WARM WELCOME to all and, if you are a visitor, we encourage you to make yourself known to your fellow worshippers and to our St. Francis clergy. If you would like to know more about the Parish, please speak with Fr. Warren or get in touch with him via email at frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given by Fred & Kathleen Keller to the glory of God and in loving memory of their son, Wallace Winter Keller; and by Barbara Julian in loving memory of her husband William, a loving man.

Lenten Bible Study

A six-week Bible Study class is being offered by Mike Kuebler during Lent, starting Tuesday, February 13, at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. The subject of the class will be *The Bible and it's Wisdom Literature*. You can sign up for the class by calling Mike at 520-907-7204 or emailing him at mikelkuebler@yahoo.com. There will also be a sign up table after services on Sundays, January 28, and February 4.

Boutique News

Thanks so much to all our parishioners who shopped in the Talents Unlimited Boutique during the holidays. As we welcome in the new year, we hope you will continue to

remember the Boutique when you're looking for a gift for a special person (maybe You!) or for a special occasion. You're always welcome just to come in and look around after the 9 o'clock service when we're always open. You'll see that we offer unique and beautiful items at better prices than you'll find elsewhere and, to make it even better, please know that when you buy in the Boutique you are helping the needy in our Green Valley community as all Boutique profits to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We look forward to seeing you soon. *Jylene Wright*

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church Parish will be held today, Sunday, January 28, 2024, following the 9 o'clock service. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

This Week at St. Francis

Today, 10a	Annual Parish Meeting
Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	DOK, Vulliamy Room
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Sunday, 10a	Annual Parish Meeting

Green Team Meeting

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The next Green Team meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, at 10:30 in Meeting Room 2. Snowbirds and newcomers are always welcome, and your input is greatly appreciated. During the meeting we will evaluate the goals of paper reduction, the sale of environ-

mentally friendly products, tree planting and water harvesting at St. Francis. Susan Burch sburch33@gmail.com

Library Book Sale

Our massive book sale is scheduled for two Sundays in February (the 18th and 25th), but we need your donated books NOW so we can plan for our set-up and staffing. So please bring any books you'd like to contribute to the sale (preferably in boxes) and leave them in the Library (just down the corridor from the Parish Hall) on Sunday, or drop them off in the Church Office during the week. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated—and the people who get to find new treasures in your old books will be grateful too. All proceeds (at \$1 per pound) will go toward the purchase of new books for your Parish Library and technical support for our digital catalog which you can access from home.

News from KBI

Border Ministry is temporarily suspending the collection of plastic containers used by KINO BORDER INITIATIVE for the distribution of food. We are so grateful to everyone in the congregation who has helped, and will inform you when the need arises again.

Hearts & Hands Ministries

▶ There's still time to make a dollar-for-dollar AZ tax credit contribution to support Imago Dei Episcopal Middle School in Tucson. Simply go to www.az-esf.org/donate/ and select *Imago Dei Middle School* when making your contribution. And any time is a good time to make a charitable contribution to the school! Go to www.imagodeischool.org and click 'Support' to make an online donation, or for mailing instructions. Your sup-

port for Imago Dei Middle School is very much needed and appreciated!

▶ VALLEY ASSISTANCE: VA helps folks in need by providing bar soap, laundry and dish washing detergent, ammonia (or glass cleaner), toilet paper, tampons, sanitary pads (regular or medium, or overnight-style with wings). You can help by purchasing some of these items, bringing them to church and depositing them in the labeled, purple container in the Sexton's closet (Southwest corner of the Parish Hall).

▶ LOCAL FOOD BANKS: We continue to collect non-perishable items for our local Food Banks. Monetary donations are welcome too, simply write your check payable to St. Francis with Green Valley Food Bank in the Memo line and we'll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week.

▶ VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to deliver these gifts to the Food Bank on Continental any time during the week. If you are willing to take one month, please pick your month and *email behook@aol.com*.

▶ DON'T FORGET: the Sahuarita Food Bank collects cardboard (cereal box style too). The receptacle is on the south side of the Food Bank building, on La Cañada.

Solo Journeyers

The Solo Group will again be getting together for a light Pot Luck on Sunday, February 4, at 11 AM, at La Posada, Directions can be picked up when signing up. Please bring a small dish to share with your fellow Solo's (drinks will be provided). Look for the sign-up sheet and directions in the Parish Hall today. Please come and join us for a festive occasion. *Kristi Thompson* (520-207-0465)

Your Help Needed

Thanks to all the great Franciscans who have taken and will take our food offerings to the Green Valley Sahuarita Food Bank. If you have missed this opportunity we still need people to deliver in May, August and September. Contact Barb Hook at *behook@aol.com*

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for February, March, and April, are now available in the Parish Office and Parish Hall.

Prayer Chain

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

Our Prayer Lists

Our St. Francis congregation is an important and lively source of prayer for those in our midst who are suffering illness or loss. Please help us keep our prayer lists current by letting us know when prayers are needed—and for whom—and when they are, thankfully, no longer needed. Names read during the Sunday liturgy should, with discretion, be of parishioners and their immediate family members—and close friends—in urgent need of our supplications. In some cases the PRAYER CHAIN might be the most appropriate ministry (see above) and, in other cases, posting a name in the PRAYER REQUESTS section of the Sunday service leaflet may serve to keep your loved one's name(s) before your fellow parishioners as well as before our extended Parish family, friends and visitors (see below). If prayers are needed, they will be offered.

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Paul Witte, Henry Witte, John Witte, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Dey-senroth, Anne Charter, Linda Greenwald, Stephen Schwarzmann, Charles Gardner, Ellen Vowells, Annette, Jean Schwafel, Jason Camp, Alan Hyde, Roger Williams, Ellen Sax, Joshua Hexter, Chaya Hexter

Remembering those who have died: Yakir Hexter, William Julian

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley, Arizona 85614
520-625-1370

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The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*
Gerald Near, *Director of Music and
Parish Communications*
Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*
Megan McAllister, *Finance Assistant*
Julianne Reppenhagen, *Senior Warden*
Jim Ratley, *Junior Warden*
J. Michael Case, *Organist*
Sophia Witte, *Handbell Ensemble director*
Matthew Harby, *Lead Sexton*
Nathaniel Martinez, *Sexton*