



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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
25 FEBRUARY 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

Johann N. Hanff, 1663-1711

Have mercy on me, O God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 455

1. O Love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.
2. O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.
3. We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.
4. We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People *His mercy endures for ever.*

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.*

TRISAGION *(Hymnal S100: the People are invited to join the choir.
Trisagion is traditionally sung three times.)*

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

○ God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON *(please be seated)*

A Reading from the Book of Genesis (17:1-7, 15-16).

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (22:22-30) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; * stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; * but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 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 remember 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 Second Lesson

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (4:13-25).

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were

continued

written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 675

1. Take up your cross, the Savior said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.
2. Take up your cross, let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish heart be still;
- the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to victory o'er the grave.
5. Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark (8:31-38).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*

Deacon In this season of repentance and renewal, let us pray for the concerns of the Church and the world, saying “Lord, in your mercy, Renew us.”

Lector For the whole Church of God, and for all its members:
May the Church truly become the united body of Christ, hearing and living out God’s call in the world. We pray for all baptized Christians in their ministries, for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Jennifer, our Bishop, and for all clergy and other ministers. Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

For our nation and every nation:
May all people learn to live together in peace, respecting one another’s differences and autonomy. May all leaders be ever mindful of their responsibilities to their own people and to others in the world. We pray for our President, Congress, Courts, state and local officials, and for all leaders around the world. Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

For this community and all communities:
May we live together in love and harmony, striving for the building up of all members, for wholeness and justice, striving until none are left behind. Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

For the concerns of the whole world:
May those who face natural disaster find grace and relief; may those who face

conflict and war find a loving spirit; and may all of us come to treat our neighbors as ourselves so that we and all this world may truly come to be God's new creation. Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

For all those who are in any pain or sorrow:
May they come to know your love and care and be brought to wholeness; for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for the poor, the persecuted, and those in prison, for those who are lonely, homeless, or hungry; for all those we now remember...Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

For all the blessings of this life:
May we truly celebrate the life we have been given and our time with one another; for new beginnings, anniversaries, and birthdays, and for all the joys of this life; we thank you for other thanksgivings we now offer, silently or aloud... Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

For all who have died:
May those who now live in the joy of God's presence with blessed Francis and all the saints find their rest in God's peace.
Lord, in your mercy,
Renew us.

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

Douglas E. Wagner, b. 1952

Near the Cross

The St. Francis Handbell Ensemble

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant God our refuge and our strength, receive all we offer you this day,
and through the death and resurrection of your Son
transform us to his likeness.

We ask this in his name.

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are,
yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live
no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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.

The Celebrant continues

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

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your

Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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, AGNUS DEI (*Hymnal, S161*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us 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 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;

continued

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 149

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

2. So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.

3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the first-born of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Georg Berg, 1730-75

Cornet Voluntary in G Minor

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@stfrancisgvaz.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.

Lenten Offerings at St. Francis in the Valley

► Our Lenten observances this week begin on Tuesday with Mike Kuebler's BIBLE STUDY series; class starts at 10:30 AM in the

Parish Hall. If you would like to participate, email Mike at *mikelkuebler@yahoo.com* or call him (520-907-7204) and let him know of your interest. ▶ The second in our series of Lenten soup and salad suppers with guest speaker presentations will be on Wednesday at 5:30 PM; join us beforehand, at 5 PM in the Courtyard, for STATIONS OF THE CROSS. The presentation this Wednesday will be by Karen Pomroy, Board President and Founder of *Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary*. Tickets for the soup suppers are priced at \$6. ▶ Fr. Warren's LENTEN STUDY, *Living Well Through Lent: Practicing Forgiveness with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*, is being held in five different locations throughout the Green Valley/Sahuarita community. Space is limited, so signing up is essential; details are available in the Parish Hall. A booklet/study guide is available and may be picked up after the morning service or in the Parish Office during the week. Look for sign up tables in the Parish Hall with more information on these and other Lenten offerings and join us for as many of these wonderful events as you can.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 10:30a	Bible Study, Parish Hall
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	DOK, Vulliamy Room
Wednesday, 5p	Stations of the Cross, Courtyard
Wednesday, 5:30p	Lenten Supper, Parish Hall
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Next Sunday, 10:30a	Lector Training Conference Room

Big Library Book Sale!

If you are a book lover—or would like to

become one—today is LAST chance to attend our massive Library Book Sale! Books, books, books at only \$1 per pound (cash or checks only, please) with all proceeds going to purchase books and fund technological improvements for your St. Francis Parish Library. Come in and browse!

Organist this morning

Sophia Witte, our Handbell Ensemble director, is at the organ this morning.

Prison Ministry

February is Camp Genesis Month. We are trying to raise funds for camper scholarships and backpacks. Camp Genesis is located at Chapel Rock in Prescott, AZ. The camp is for children who have an incarcerated immediate family member. The cost to send a kid to camp for the week is \$430 including a supply filled backpack. There is no cost to the family of the kids who attend camp; all campers attend camp on a scholarship. Please continue to pray for the campers. *Rena Robbins*

Lector Ministry

We'll have a meeting with all available lectors to celebrate and review our ministry, including ways to enhance it. If you are interested in this ministry, please join us in the Conference Room on Sunday, March 3, following the 9 AM service, after your trip to the refreshment tables. Blessings, *Tom Neyland+*

Easter Baskets

Crossroads Rescue Mission in Nogales is having their annual Easter Dinner on Sunday, March 31, and, as we have for the past several years, our HEARTS & HANDS COMMITTEE has agreed to contribute 100 filled Easter Baskets for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt, and we need YOUR help to meet our

goal. Look in the Parish Hall for the marked container where you can put your donations. Your shopping list includes: ▶ Easter baskets, ▶ small toys and ▶ wrapped candy. If shopping is not your thing you may write a check to St. Francis—writing *Easter Baskets* on the memo line—and a bunny we happen to know will shop for you. Then, join us on Wednesday, March 27, in the Parish Hall at 10 AM to help us put the baskets together. Thank you for helping us with this HEARTS & HANDS ministry project, either for the first time or once again.

Stewardship Workshop

Clyde Kunz, Canon for Stewardship & Planned Giving for the Diocese of Arizona, will be presenting a workshop on *The Basics of Legacy Giving* from 10 AM until NOON on Saturday, March 2, in the St. Francis Vulliamy Room. This is an important event aimed at making ‘a transformative impact on your family and your church.’

Hearts & Hands Ministries

▶ THANK YOU for continuing to bring non-perishable food for our friends at the local Food Banks. And thanks to the volunteers who gather it and take it every month. We need a volunteer for September; if you can help, email Barb at behook@aol.com.

▶ HELP NEEDED: We are still hoping for HEARTS & HANDS liaisons to keep abreast of the needs of SISTER JOSE, a homeless woman’s shelter and GENESIS HOUSE, a Green Valley shelter.

▶ JOIN US: And most importantly, if you have a passion for a particular ministry bring your voice to a HEARTS & HANDS meeting the third Monday of the month at 10 AM. If you have questions please contact any Hearts &

Hands volunteer or contact Barb Hook at behook@aol.com.

Kino Border Initiative

If you would like to help folks in need at the border, please drop some CLEAN, REUSABLE grocery bags (not the thin plastic type) in the KINO box in the donations room (aka Sexton’s closet). These, and purchased 99 cent store bags like them will be put to good use by people heading home in Mexico from Nogales who have no suitcase or backpack.

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

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Henry Witte, John Witte, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Frank Brown, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Jean Schwafel, Jason Camp, Roger Williams, Ellen Sax, Joshua & Chaya Hexter, Jim Ravenelle, The Rev. Pat Kirk, Ann Zublin

Remembering those who have died: pray for those who have died

St. Francis in the Valley
Episcopal Church

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