



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 IN LENT (MID-LENT)
10 MARCH 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

Healey Willan, 1880-1968

Intermezzo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 473

Refrain

Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his sacred Name.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. <i>Refrain</i> | 3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2. Each new-born servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him
who died. <i>Refrain</i> | 4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for
victory. <i>Refrain</i> |

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON (*please be seated*)

A Reading from the Book of Numbers (21:4-9).

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

THE PSALM (107:1-3, 17-22) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, * and his mercy endures for ever. | from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. |
| 2 | Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim * that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe. | 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; * they were afflicted because of their sins. |
| 3 | He gathered them out of the lands; * | 18 They abhorred all manner of food * and drew near to death's door. |

19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, * and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them * and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy * and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving * and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (2:1-10).

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

GRADUAL HYMN 686

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

2. Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither, by thy help, I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (3:14-21).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Martin How, 1931-2022

*Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee
more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. (Richard of Chichester, 1197-1253)*

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 everywhere 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;
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 690

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|---|--|
| 1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore. | lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield. |
| 2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar | 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee. |

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Bernhard Schmid, 1520-92

Gagliarda

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 fourth in our series of Lenten soup and salad suppers with guest speaker presentations will be Wednesday at 5:30 PM; join us beforehand, at 5 PM in the Courtyard, for STATIONS OF THE CROSS. The presenter this Wednesday will be our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall; she will be speaking about a recent trip to Kenya. 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. ► Fr. Warren will be preparing and presenting a *Seder Meal* on Wednesday

in Holy Week, March 27; donations will be gratefully received to cover costs. Check out the sign up tables in the Parish Hall for more information on these and other Lenten offerings and join us for as many of these wonderful events as you can.

Dream Building

At the Annual Meeting we mentioned that we would have opportunities for the congregation to share ideas as we look to the future of St. Francis in the Valley. This morning, from 10:30-11:15 AM, you are invited to join me and some members of the Vestry to do some Dream Building. If you had three wishes for St. Francis, what would they be? Bring your coffee or cold drink to either the Conference Room, St. Francis room, Meeting Room 2, or Library, for a round table discussion. *Fr. Warren*

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 10:30a	Bible Study, Parish Hall
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 5p	Stations of the Cross, Courtyard
Wednesday, 5:30p	Lenten Supper, Parish Hall
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft

Prison Ministry

Thank you to all who supported GoFund Camp Genesis. The total amount collected is still being calculated. More news to follow. On another note, we will be hosting a second REENTRY SIMULATION on Saturday, April 13, in the Parish Hall. If you weren't able to participate in the one held in September, you will have another opportunity. It is an eye-opening experience of the challenges facing people released from prison in the first 30 days after release. We hope you will sign up to attend. The maximum participation is 50

people with a minimum of 20. Please mark your calendars for April 13. Thank you for your amazing support of Prison Ministry!

Rena Robbins

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 9 AM (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE) 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.

Urgent Need

We are looking for crucifers, acolytes, servers, and Altar Guild members, and the need is great and urgent. If you have experience in any of these areas of service, please consider stepping up to help. If you haven't experience but are willing to learn, we will be delighted to train you. Questions? Get in touch with Norma Pool (Altar Guild) or Fr. Warren (all the rest).

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.

▶ In addition to all the above, members of HEARTS & HANDS dedicate these next weeks of Lent to reaching out to our visitors. Meet someone new. Introduce them to all that happens during the week at St. Francis.

▶ 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.

Solo Journeyers

The Solo Group will again be getting together for a light Pot Luck on Sunday, March 17, at 4 PM at the home of Kristi Thompson, 120 W Paseo Canasta, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (520-207-0465). Please bring a small nibble/hors d'oeuvre to share with your fellow Solos (drinks will be provided). Look for the signup sheet in the Parish Hall today and next Sunday.

Chapel Rock

The Diocese wants to thank all who participated in Chapel Rock Sunday this past weekend. Because of your generosity, Chapel Rock can make sure that no camper should miss out on going to camp because of financial means. Summer Camp offers campers a chance for acceptance, and to become a part of a unique Christian community. They have an opportunity to explore their faith and hopefully, even embrace the love of Jesus Christ and their fellow cabin mates.

If you who missed out on giving during

Chapel Rock Sunday, you can still donate by visiting chapelrock.net/donate.

Silence (and silencing) Is Golden

If you have a cell phone (and who doesn't?) please make an effort to silence it before the service begins. As easy as it is to silence your phone, it's even easier to forget to do it. Please make the extra effort. (And then try to remember to turn it back on after the service has concluded.)

Many of your fellow parishioners consider the Organ Prelude to be part of the service, and not just ambient noise intended to cover conversation and the hustle and bustle associated with the moments before the service begins. Our organists consider carefully what they play and spend precious time practising to play it well. That said, organists get paid whether or not anyone listens; it's your fellow parishioners—those for whom the Organ Prelude is important and worth listening to as part of their preparation for worship—who suffer when listening competes with talking. Please be considerate of others and save conversation for Coffee Hour.

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.

A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and

let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

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

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

www.stfranciscgvaz.org
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