



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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

3 SEPTEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

Ernest Pepping, 1901-81

Three Chorale Preludes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 450

1. All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!
*bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!*
2. Crown him, ye martyrs of our God,
who from his altar call:
praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all!
*praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all!*
3. Hail him, the Heir of David's line,
whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all!
*the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all!*
4. Ye heirs of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!
*hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!*
5. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all!
*go, spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all!*
6. Let every kindred, every tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!
*to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!*

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*)

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 the Prophet Jeremiah (15:15-21).

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (26:1-8) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

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|--|--|
| 1 Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; * I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered. | 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, * that I may go in procession round your altar; |
| 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; * examine my heart and my mind. | 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving * and recounting all your wonderful deeds. |
| 3 For your love is before my eyes; * I have walked faithfully with you. | 8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell * and the place where your glory abides. |
| 4 I have not sat with the worthless, * nor do I consort with the deceitful. | |
| 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; * I will not sit down with the wicked. | |

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (12:9-21).

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals

on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 675 (*sung to the tune 'Winchester New'*)

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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 Matthew (16:21-28).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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)*

OFFERTORY HYMN 309

1. O Food to pilgrims given,
O Bread of life from heaven,
O Manna from on high!
We hunger; Lord, supply us,
nor thy delights deny us,
whose hearts to thee draw nigh.

2. O stream of love past telling,
O purest fountain, welling
from out the Savior's side!
We faint with thirst; revive us,
of thine abundance give us,
and all we need provide.

3. O Jesus, by thee bidden,
we here adore thee, hidden
in forms of bread and wine.
Grant when the veil is riven,
we may behold, in heaven,
thy countenance divine.

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,
People *And of thine own have we given thee.*

AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer C*)

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 God of all power, Ruler of the Universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of
interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us
the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed
your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
*By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.*

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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 And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for

renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Together Our Father, who art in heaven...
...for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

continued

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 707

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

2. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German, b. 1954

*Altar flowers are given by Charles Gardner to the glory of
God and in loving memory of his wife Marjorie.*

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.

Fall Bible Study

The Fall Bible Study class will start Tuesday, September 19, and run for 7 weeks, meeting in the Parish Hall from 10:30 to 11:45 AM.

We will focus on the four Gospels and where

they fit into Salvation History, the portraits of Jesus in the Gospels, and some stories behind each portrait. For example: "Jesus the Storyteller" will focus on the parables of Jesus. The last session will be on the first Chapters of *The Acts of the Apostles* and the book of *Philemon*, the shortest book of the Bible.

To sign up for the class, please call me at 520-907-7204 or email me at mikelkuebler@yahoo.com. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. I will also have a sign up table after the service on Sunday, September 10 and 17. *Mike Kuebler*

Saturday Eucharist

Join us this Saturday at 4 PM in the Parish Hall to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. See you there!

Parish Offices Closed

Our Parish Offices will be closed tomorrow, Monday, September 4, in recognition of the Labor Day national holiday.

Organist this morning

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

This Week at St. Francis

Monday	Parish Offices Closed
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conference Room
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Saturday, 4p	Holy Eucharist, Parish Hall

Imago Dei Middle School

It's *Back to School* at Imago Dei Middle School for 74 students and there's exciting news! A new grade level, 4th Grade, has been added this year. Let's keep *all* of these scholars, especially those new to Imago Dei and the 8th grade graduates who we especially honor at graduation, in our thoughts and prayers as they embark on a new school year.

There is also an exciting fundraiser currently underway until September 12, that you can participate in at no cost to you! It is called the HUNDREDX OPINIONS FUNDRAISER. Register at HundredX.com/Learn and choose Imago Dei from the dropdown menu. Then select from 3,000 national companies and products that you have an opinion on and submit brief, emoji-based opinions. Each opinion takes about 90 seconds, and for each opinion HUNDREDX donates \$1.60 to the school. It's fast, easy, and no cost to you! You may submit up to 75 opinions. Try it! Please contact Barbara Bundy, Vestry Liaison, (bjbundy@verizon.net) for more infor-

mation on how you can support Imago Dei Middle School.

Boutique News

The TALENTS UNLIMITED BOUTIQUE is open today for your shopping pleasure. Come see our unique Fall items and beautiful new jewelry. And remember, when you shop with us, you are helping the needy in our Green Valley community as all profits go to the Rector's Discretionary fund. We look forward to seeing you! *Jylene Wright*

Prison Ministry

September is PRISON AWARENESS MONTH in the Arizona Diocese. We have a few things planned for September. On September 10, during coffee hour, we will host a Storyteller. Her name is Virginia Mireles; she is a former inmate. Please join us in the Parish Hall to hear Virginia's story and ask her questions. Later in the month we will host a *Reentry Simulation—Through Our Lens*. This will be a way to experience the obstacles encountered during the first month of post-release. This event will require a sign-up to attend. Hope to see you at these events. As always, thank you for your support of Prison Ministry.

Rena Robbins

Hearts & Hands Ministries

► A thousand thanks to all who collected and donated buttons to BOOKS FOR CLASSROOMS to help children learning math. We have enough buttons right now BUT, if you are still collecting and wish to continue donating, Joyce Davison will see they get to the right place.

► 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. For August the Green Valley Food Bank is requesting canned meats, Spam, hash, chili beans, rice, pasta and pasta sauce (no glass containers, please). 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.

▶ DON'T FORGET: the Sahuarita Food Bank collects cardboard (cereal box style too). The receptacle is located next to Good Shepherd Church on La Cañada.

Water Harvesting

Jon and I recently participated in the "Rainwater Collection for Arizona's Episcopal Churches" webinar hosted by the Diocesan Creation Care Council. Throughout the state, individuals and churches are troubled about the decreasing water levels and are eager to learn practical and economical techniques for harvesting and conserving water. The St. Francis Landscaping Team has been vigilant to plant drought resistant plants and prepare water diversion systems. The "pond" is an excellent example of forward planning and implementation. Possibly, rain barrels to harvest roof runoff is next. The GREEN TEAM welcomes new members as we explore ways to Care for Creation at St. Francis, in the community, schools, organizations and in our

homes. It would be my pleasure to chat. Give me a call or email. 520-528-4271. *Sburch33@gmail.com Susan Burch*

Tip: Put a bucket in the shower. Harvest the wasted water before you step in. Use the bucketed water for plants.

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 August, September, and October 2023, 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: Paul Witte, Henry Witte, Dick Kosnick, Clyde Tardy, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Ellen Sax, Ben Shiriak, Eileen Fanning, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Debi Murry, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Edgar, Miguel, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Lance Parker Eaves, Craig Reid, Bobbi Tucker.

Remembering those who have died: Pray for those who have died.