



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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

17 SEPTEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

César Franck, 1822-90

Panis Angelicus

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 688

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing;
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his Name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us;
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us;
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is for ever.

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. **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

○ God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Genesis (50:15-21).

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he

is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (103:8-13) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, * slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, * nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, * nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, * so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, * so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, * so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (14:1-12).

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 674 (*sung to the tune 'Caithness'*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say. | 3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us,
how great our debt to you. |
| 2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart? | 4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man,
our lives will spread your peace. |

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (18:21-35).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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 380

1. From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung
through every land, by every tongue!
2. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,
and truth eternal is thy word:
thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.
3. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,
and give us generous hearts to serve you in
all who claim our help.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
People *Amen.*

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 439

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to lay aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul. | 2. To God and to the Lamb,
I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme I will sing. |
| 3. And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on. | |

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

César Franck, 1822-90

Sortie in D

*Altar flowers are given by Carol Berg to the glory of God and in thanksgiving
for her family and in loving memory of her husband John.*

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 contact me at 520-907-7204 or, via email, 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 this morning.

Mike Kuebler

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 11a	Finance Committee, Meeting Room 2
Tuesday, 9a	Men’s Group, Conf Rm
Tuesday, 10:30a	Bible Study, Parish Hall
Tuesday, 11a	Time with Treasurer, Conference Room
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft

Movie Musical Night

Director of Music Gerald is inviting you to view another classic movie musical on Friday, September 29. Gather at 5 PM for a potluck supper, complete with fun and fellowship, followed by a brief introduction to the musical, with a chance to guess the title (a closely-held secret) and win a new (well, slightly used) bottle opener. You won’t want to miss it, so sign up today (but wait until the service is over, especially the sermon).

Parish Choir rehearsals to begin

The Fall choral season will begin Thursday, September 21, at 2 PM in the Choir Loft. Choirmaster Gerald is eager to welcome all members, old and new. If you would like to become part of this great ministry (as old as

the Parish), let Gerald know via email (*gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org*) or 520-625-1370.

Time With the Treasurer

It’s that time again...If you are interested in a more in-depth look at this year’s financial position, please join me in the Conference Room on Tuesday, September 19, from 11 AM until NOON. I will share summarized data of actuals versus budget and provide pertinent information regarding major variances. There will be time for Q&A, so please bring your questions. If I am not able to answer immediately, I will get your answer to you ASAP.

Gloria Cadwalader, Parish Treasurer

August Income/Expense Results

Operating Income (actual):	\$21,600
Operating Income (budget):	\$32,162
Operating Expense (actual):	\$43,715
Operating Expense (budget):	\$46,500
YEAR-TO-DATE THROUGH AUGUST (includes Annual Trust Allocation)	
Operating Income (actual):	\$329,987
Operating Income (budget):	\$288,244
Operating Expense (actual):	\$438,344
Operating Expense (budget):	\$429,992

*These values exclude Capital Project
Income and Expense.*

Boutique Open

The TALENTS UNLIMITED BOUTIQUE is open again, following the 9 o’clock service. There are many new Fall items to help you decorate for the upcoming holidays: unique jewelry from Santa Fe; handcrafted crosses, and new St. Francis of Assisi statuary. And, we continue to offer beautiful Hummel figurines at affordable prices. Shopping is so easy—grab your coffee and come see! Volunteer managers of the Boutique are Wendy Hill, Jylene Wright, Annette Leibovitch, and Laura Thomas. *Jylene*

Prison Ministry

We hope you enjoyed hearing our Storyteller Virginia Mireles last week. Sunday, September 17, is CAMP GENESIS SUNDAY. Those of you who have a blue heart for camper please keep praying, we still have a long way to go. For those who don't have a blue heart here are the names and ages of all the campers. Your prayers for them are most welcome. The girls are: Aisling age 10, Brooklyn age 12, Esmeralda age 9, Jordan age 12, McKenzie age 10, Reagan age 13 and Tatum age 8. The boys are: Adrian age 17, Gabriel age 14, Hector age 11, Isaac age 8, Killian age 12, Levi age 10, Logan age 15, Maddox age 10 and Oscar age 13. This is primarily a prayer ministry so, PRAY BIG! *Rena Robbins*

Hearts & Hands Ministries

▶ 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 September the Green Valley Food Bank is requesting canned goods: rice, beans, and cereal. 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 starting this month, September, 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 located next to Good Shepherd Church on La Cañada.

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, Ben Shiriak, Eileen Fanning, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Debi Murry, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Edgar, Miguel, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Lance Parker Eaves, Bobbi Tucker, Gia Brown, Johnny, Mike, Susan Bedus.

Remembering those who have died: Pray for victims of the Morocco earthquake.

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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