



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 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

15 OCTOBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

Johannes Brahms, 1833-97

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN *sung to the tune "Dunedin"*

1. The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat
and never live until they die.
3. Then let the servant church arise.
A caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
4. For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood.
And teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve.
And spread Christ's liberating word.

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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 the Prophet Isaiah (25:1-9).

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

THE PSALM (23)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

THE EPISTLE

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (4:1-9).

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 339

1. Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy thy praises render
unto him whose grace unbounded
hath this wondrous banquet founded—
high o'er all the heavens he reigneth,
yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.
2. Sun, who all my life dost brighten;
Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Joy, the best that any knoweth;
Fount, whence all my being floweth:

at thy feet I cry, my Maker,
let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven,
for our good, thy glory, given.

3. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee,
let me gladly here obey thee;
never to my hurt invited,
be thy love with love requited;
from this banquet let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;
through the gifts thou here dost give me,
as thy guest in heaven receive me.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (22:1-14).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Becky Williamson

THE NICENE CREED

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Form VI) *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*
Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

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

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

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

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

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

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

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

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

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

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

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

Silence

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

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

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

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

Leader and People

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

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

THE PEACE

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

People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THE OFFERTORY

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

AT THE OFFERTORY

Johann Seb. Bach, 1685-1750

*Jesu, joy of man's desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright, Drawn by thee, our souls as-
piring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life
impassioned. Striving still to Truth unknown, soaring, dying round thy throne.*

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 B*)

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 on the first day of the week
overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The people may stand, sit, or kneel.

(Celebrant) 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

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.
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 345

1. Savior, again to thy dear Name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy Name.
2. Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end the day:
from harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.
3. Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life;
peace to thy Church from error and from strife;
peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
peace in each heart, thy Spirit from above:
4. thy peace in life, the balm of every pain;
thy peace in death, the hope to rise again;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Johannes Brahms, 1833-97

St. Anthony Chorale

Altar flowers are given by Susan Davis, Kristi Menix, and Kelley Davis to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents Bob & Betty Davis.

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.

St. Francis Month

All of October will be devoted to a celebration and study of the life and values of St.

Francis. Each Sunday sermon will take on one spiritual dimension of these values: for example the *spirituality of Gratitude, creation care, compassion, peace and justice*. During the week, on Wednesdays, at 11:15 AM, we have scheduled time in the Parish Hall for a follow-up discussion. (This week we will be discussing the *Spirituality of Creation Care*.) Discussions will be followed by fellowship, and we invite you to bring a brown-bag lunch. Don't miss these opportunities to learn more about the life of our Patron Saint, Francis of Assisi.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a

Handbells, Loft

Monday, 10a	Hearts & Hands, Meeting Room 2
Tuesday, 9a	Green Team, Parish Hall
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conf Rm
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 11:15a	<i>Sermon</i> follow-up discussion, Parish Hall
Wednesday, 4p	Sue Howell Memorial, Parish Hall
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Friday, 9a	St. Clare Quiet Day, Chapel (see below)

St. Clare of Assisi

A Day of Quiet Reflection

On Friday, October 20, The Rev. Judy Turberg will lead a day of quiet reflection on the life and spirituality of St. Clare of Assisi, focusing on her principles of enclosure, prayer and poverty, and what they could mean for us in our lives today. This mini-retreat is sponsored by The Order of the Daughters of the King, Clare Chapter—but you do not have to be a Daughter, nor a woman, nor even a member of St. Francis to attend. All are welcome. There is no charge and you do not have to register in advance. Just come, bring a friend, your own bag lunch, and an openness to Clare's remarkable legacy. We meet from 10 AM to 3 PM in the Chapel, concluding with Holy Eucharist.

Parish Choir rehearsals

Parish Choir rehearsals are again being held on Thursdays at 2 PM in the Choir Loft. Choirmaster Gerald is eager to welcome all members, old and new. Singers are needed in all sections of the group. 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.

Boutique Open and offering St. Francis statuary and more

Since all of October is being devoted to a celebration and study of the life and values of our Patron Saint, Francis of Assisi, please know that the Boutique is offering three different sizes of his statuary, all beautifully painted. Every week, new jewelry and/or decorative items are available for your shopping pleasure, the latest being genuine Austrian crystal birthstones for a necklace or bracelet, and vintage Precious Moments figurines, all beautiful gifts for that special someone or to add to your collection! The Boutique is open every Sunday following the 9 o'clock service. Grab your coffee and come see! *Jylene Wright*

Prison Ministry

Thank you to all who participated in the "Through Our Lens Reentry Simulation" on Saturday. We hope you all enjoyed it and found it to be educational, informative and fun. We thought it went well and everyone did great! The folks from Arouet did a fabulous job putting on the event and we appreciated all their work and openness when sharing with us. *Rena Robbins*

Solo Journeymen

The Solo Group will again be getting together for a potluck lunch at 11:45 am, on Sunday, November 5, at the home of Joyce Davison, 685 S. La Posada Circle, #703. Please bring a dish to share. Sign up in the Parish Hall today and Sundays, October 22 and 29. Contact Kristi Thompson (520-207-0465) for more information.

Candy Candy Candy

The second annual Trunk or Treat is hap-

pening on Saturday, October 28. This event was extremely popular last year, and we anticipate a large attendance this year as well. Please help us treat the kids in the community and consider donating a bag (or two, or three) of candy for the event. There are boxes in the Parish Hall (inflatable witch bucket) as well as in the front office for your donations. If you would rather not shop for the treats—and tempt yourself—consider dropping a check in the plate marked “candy” and we will take care of it for you.

Hearts & Hands Ministries

▶ **Imago Dei Middle School:** School is back in full swing at Imago Dei! The traditional support from St. Francis Parish has been gift cards to the graduating scholars at the end of the year, and we plan to continue that tradition come Spring. Meanwhile, let’s support the graduating scholars with our prayers. Please stop by the Imago Dei table at coffee hour today and pick up the name of a scholar to hold in your daily prayers.

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

▶ **LOCAL FOOD BANKS:** We continue to collect non-perishable items for our local Food Banks. Monetary donations are welcome too, simply write your check payable to St. Francis with *Green Valley Food Bank* in the MEMO line and we’ll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on

Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week.

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

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

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for November, December, and January (2024), 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, 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, Johnny, Sue Girardeau, Anne Charter, Linda Greenwald.

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

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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