



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 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
19 NOVEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

Léon Boëllmann, 1862-97

Prière à Notre-Dame

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 721 *Wonder, Love, and Praise*

1. Signs of endings all around us—
darkness, death, and winter days
shroud our lives in fear and sadness,
numbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us!
Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness.
Show us what there yet can be.
2. Can it be that from our endings,
new beginnings you create?
Life from death, and from our rendings,
realms of wholeness generate?

Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them
into hopes for life anew:
Fading light and dying season
sing their Glorias to you.

3. Speak, O God, your Word among us.
Barren lives your presence fill.
Swell our hearts with songs of gladness,
terrors calm forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice
blossom now throughout the earth;
your dominion bring now near us;
we await the saving birth.

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 Zephaniah (1:7, 12-18).

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

THE PSALM (90:1-8, 12)

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge * from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, * from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, * "Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past * and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; * we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; * in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; * we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, * and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 12 So teach us to number our days * that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

THE EPISTLE

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (5:1-11).

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN 541

1. Come, labor on.

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
“Go work today.”

2. Come, labor on.

The enemy is watching night and day,
to sow the tares, to snatch the seed away;
while we in sleep our duty have forgot,
he slumbered not.

3. Come, labor on.

Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here:
by feeblest agents may our God fulfill
his righteous will.

4. Come, labor on.

Claim the high calling angels cannot share—
to young and old the Gospel gladness bear:
redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

5. Come, labor on.

No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
“Servants, well done.”

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (25:14-30).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master re-

plied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

Susan E. Geschke, b. 1961

Rejoice Greatly
The St. Francis Bell Ensemble

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

continued

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 551

1. Rise up, ye saints of God!
Have done with lesser things,
give heart and soul and mind and strength
to serve the King of kings.

2. Rise up, ye saints of God!
His kingdom tarries long:

Lord, bring the day of truth and love
and end the night of wrong.

3. Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod;
and quickened by the Spirit's power,
rise up, ye saints of God!

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

William Mathias, 1934-92

Processional

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organist this morning
Sophia Witte is at the organ this morning.

Border Ministry

Fabulous progress has been made signing Christmas cards! Thanks to all who have graciously signed the cards. Special thanks to Bob Bates for finding the card that lost its envelope! We are still in need of postage

stamps. Thank you to everyone for helping make the season bright for the women in Perryville. *Rena Robbins*

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Monday, 10p	Finance Committee, Vulliamy Room
Monday, 10a	Hearts and Hands, Meeting Room 2
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conf Rm
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	DOK, Vulliamy Room
Wednesday, 1p	Margaret Bowman Memorial & Reception
Thursday, 11:30a	Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Thursday, 1p	Thanksgiving Dinner, Parish Hall

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 selling Wizard of Oz collection

I'm sure that most of you remember the 1939 *Wizard of Oz* film and its characters. A generous parishioner has donated the *Marie Osmond Tiny Tot Wizard of Oz Doll collection 2000*, which also includes a Munchkin and the Wicked Witch of the West, both Madame Alexander dolls. The rest of the set includes Dorothy in her ruby slippers with her dog Toto, Tinman who wanted a heart, Scarecrow who wanted a brain, Lion who wanted courage, and Glinda, the beautiful, good Witch of the North. Come see this beautiful collection after the 9 o'clock service. *Jylene Wright*

Volunteers Needed

We need Food Bank delivery volunteers for December and January. If you are able to help, email Barb Hook (*behook@aol.com*) and let her know. Thank you to volunteers Sherry Evans (October), Jan Hall, (November), and Arliene Stremming (February).

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.

Your gently-read books needed
The St. Francis LIBRARY COMMITTEE will

be hosting a massive book sale—not just of religious books, but ALL KINDS OF BOOKS—in February 2024. So why publicize this now? Because we need all the books in your home that you've already read (or given up on) and need/want to get rid of and would like to donate for our sale! The money generated from the sale will be used to support our digital catalog and buy new books for the library. Please bring your gently-read books to the St. Francis library between October and December 2023, leaving them in the corner to the left of the Library door.

Christmas Stars

Bea Dow and Nancy Symons (aka Santa's Elves) are busy helping the Salvation Army spread Christmas cheer in the form of \$50 gift cards. You will find the Stars (each one with the name of a needy teenager) available in the Parish Hall following services on Sundays, November 12, 19, 26 and December 3. Return your Star with a \$50 Visa gift card by Sunday, December 10 or, alternatively, you may write a check for \$50 (made payable to St. Francis Church with 'Xmas Stars' in the memo line) and the elves will do the shopping for you. Stars and checks may also be returned to the Parish Office (open Monday through Thursday, 9 AM until Noon) by Thursday, December 7.

Thanksgiving at St. Francis

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Our annual Thanksgiving Day service will be celebrated at 11:30 AM in the Church.

Following the service you are invited to join the St. Francis family for Thanksgiving dinner at 1 PM. All are welcome. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to this traditional feast of gratitude and thanksgiving. There is no charge, but you will need to sign up at the

Social Activities table in the Parish Hall after services or call the Parish Office (520-625-1370) to register.

Community Chorus Concert

The Green Valley Community Chorus will be singing their annual Christmas Concerts Monday, December 4, at 7 PM and Tuesday, December 5 at 2:30 PM at Valley Presbyterian Church. The chorus membership includes quite a few St. Francis parishioners, and any one of them would be pleased to sell you a ticket.

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. 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, John Witte, Dick Kosnick, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Eileen Fanning, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Debi Murry, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Edgar, Miguel, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Anne Charter, Linda Greenwald, Joan Jakubiak, Christie Kuebler, Stephen Schwarzmamm

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

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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