



VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**Liturgy for**  
April 18, 2025

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# GOOD FRIDAY

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Valley Presbyterian Church exists to make disciples of Jesus by gathering for the public worship of God; by growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through Christian education; and by sending God's people to go out into the world and love their neighbors and cities for the glory of God.

**Service Time:**

6:30 pm

**Location:**

9200 Haskell Avenue | North Hills, CA 91343



# Welcome to Valley Presbyterian Church!

We trust that you will experience the presence of Christ and the welcome of his people as you gather with us this morning. Below are a series of answers to questions that are often asked about our worship service. We hope that you will find them informative. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact our pastors directly at [valleypresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:valleypresbyterian@gmail.com)

## ***Does your church have a statement of faith?***

Yes! Valley Presbyterian Church is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), and as a part of the PCA we subscribe to a document called the Westminster Standards. This document consists of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and two Catechisms (the Larger and Shorter Catechisms) which are meant to be helpful teaching tools for the people of God. The Westminster Standards can be found online, but the basics of what we believe can be found in your bulletin. We confess these basics every week when we recite the Nicene Creed, which has been a summary of the Christian faith for over 1,500 years!

## ***Why is your worship so liturgical?***

Believe it or not, every church is liturgical. Some liturgies consist of three songs, announcements, a 50-minute sermon, etc. Those liturgies tend to reflect many Christian churches in North America. Our worship service is ordered the way that it is because it is a reflection of how God has met with his people throughout the history of the world. Here's a breakdown of why we do what we do:

## **God Gathers His People**

At the appointed time, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ gathers for worship, recognizing that God Himself has brought together His people.

## **We Come to God by Faith**

In continued response to God's call to worship, we offer our first prayer to God. This prayer also reflects our adoration and affection for God, acknowledging Him as our Creator and Redeemer.

## **God Reshapes the Hearts and Lives of His People**

God once again addresses us directly through His holy Word. As we are faced with God's perfect holiness, there is only one appropriate response—the confession of our sin. Having heard God's Law and having confessed our sins, what we need most is to have the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed to us! It is here that God assures us of His forgiveness and Fatherly love toward us!

## **God Uses His People in His Service**

We now enter into a time of intercessory prayer, both for Christ's church and the world. The Kingdom of God is built through the prayers of the church, so we pray because we are given this privilege as His servant- people. In grateful response to all of God's gifts to us, we offer a token of appreciation to Him. Our financial gifts to God are the confession of our stewardship.

## **God Speaks to Us Through His Word**

The preaching of the Word is the primary way God addresses sinners to receive salvation and to grow in it. Thus in preaching, God continues to speak to us with the love of Jesus.

## **God Renews His Covenant with Us**

The reading and the preaching of the Word is when God audibly speaks His gospel to us, then the administration of the sacraments is when God visibly shows His gospel to us. The Lord's Supper is God visibly communing with us at His table.

## **God Sends His People Out with His Blessing**

Just as God initiated worship, so now God concludes worship with His benediction, His "good word." In the benediction, God, through the Pastor, blesses His beloved people. We can all objectively say after

worship that we were blessed. As it is not a prayer, but a pronouncement, we lift up our faces to the Lord as He blesses us, for His face shines upon us and His grace and peace are ours forevermore.

### ***Why is there so much Scripture reading in your worship service?***

The Bible is central in our worship service because we believe the Bible is God's word, and we need to hear from God when we gather together. One of Jesus' apostles, Paul, wrote, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching." (1 Tim. 4:13) It is through God's word that faith is created in our hearts (Rom. 10:17), and we are made holy (John 17:17).

### ***Why do you take communion most Sundays?***

Communion is a Holy Sacrament of the Church (along with Baptism). The word Sacrament is a translation of a Greek word which means "mystery." Baptism and Communion are the "mysteries" of the church, because through them God works powerfully through his Word and Spirit nourishing our faith with Christ and all his benefits. Holy Communion is not an empty ritual, or a mere "remembrance" of Jesus' death, it is fellowship with the risen Christ. In Holy Communion, Jesus and all of his gifts are offered to the faithful.

### ***Communion Information***

We are serving both juice and wine as we partake of the Lord's Supper together. Both juice and wine serve as appropriate elements of communion as both fit the biblical requirement of being fruit of the vine. If you have never been baptized, or if you are not a Christian, please abstain from taking Communion. If you'd like to take Communion, or to be baptized, speak to either of the Pastors, or to one of the Elders. We would be happy to assist you in taking steps toward Baptism, or your first Communion.

Communion is for baptized, repentant, and believing Christians and they should pick up the cups of bread and the vine as they enter for worship. Let us come to Christ's table together rejoicing in our salvation!

### ***Why do you baptize babies?***

We baptize the children of believing parents because it is in line with the teaching of Scripture. We don't baptize babies because it's a nice tradition, or because it's what the universal church practiced up until the time of the Reformation. In the Bible, the children of believers are always treated as holy members of God's church by virtue of God's promises (1 Cor. 7:14). In the Old Testament, God commanded that the sign of membership in God's visible church be given to infants who didn't yet have faith (Gen. 17:12). This principle still stands with the New Testament sign of Baptism (Acts 2:39; 16:15.)

### ***Why is worship led by Pastors and Elders?***

Pastors and Elders are those whom Christ has gifted and have been set apart by ordination by the Presbytery or congregation to be God's representatives and undershepherds of the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't submit to God's Word because it comes from charismatic teachers, or funny communicators; we submit to it because it comes from those who have been set apart for the office of elder to speak the truth in love that we may grow more and more into the image of Christ.



## GOOD FRIDAY

Prelude  
Welcome

Ben Mason  
Pastor Ron Svendsen

Call to Worship +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn #252 +

### **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God:  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.  
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
Did e're such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.  
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer of  
Adoration

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn #248 +

### **Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended**

Ah, holy Jesus, how has thou offended,  
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.  
Who was the guilty who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee: I crucified thee.  
For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation:  
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,  
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 27:45-46

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn #246 +

**Man of Sorrows! What a Name**

Man of Sorrows! What a name for the Son of God, who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
  
Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood,  
Sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
  
Guilty, vile, and helpless, we; spotless Lamb of God was he;  
Full atonement! Can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
  
Lifted up was he to die, "It is finished!" was his cry;  
Now in heav'n exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 27:47-50

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn #251 +

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.  
  
Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me:  
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.  
  
I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 27:51-53

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn #255 +

**O Jesus, We Adore Thee**

O Jesus, we adore thee, upon the cross, our King.  
We bow our hearts before thee, thy gracious name we sing.  
That name hath brought salvation, that name in life our stay,  
Our peace, our consolation, when life shall fade away.  
  
Yet doth the world disdain thee, still passing by the cross;  
Lord, may our hearts retain thee; all else we count but loss.  
Ah, Lord, our sins arraigned thee, and nailed thee to the tree:  
Our pride, our Lord, disdained thee; yet deign our hope to be.  
  
O glorious King, we bless thee, no longer pass thee by;  
O Jesus, we confess thee, the Son enthroned on high.  
Lord, grant to us remission; life through thy death restore;  
Yea, grant us the fruition of life forevermore.

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 27:54-56

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Closing Song +

**Oh, to See the Dawn (The Power of the Cross)**

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.  
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.  
  
Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your blood-stained brow.  
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—"Finished!" the victory cry.  
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.  
  
Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless Love!  
This the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Ron Svendsen

God's  
Benediction

Pastor Ron Svendsen



**A Church Where God's  
People Gather, Grow and Go  
for the Glory of God**

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