



VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**Liturgy for**  
April 20, 2025

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# THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

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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:**

11:00 am

**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.



# LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Prelude  
Welcome

Ben Mason  
Pastor Ron Svendsen

Pastor: Christ the Lord is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: O sing unto the Lord, for he has done great things.

## GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to  
Worship +

Peter 1:3, 2:9, 5:14b

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Hymn of  
Praise  
#277 +

### **Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today,” Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say; Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!

Sing ye heav’ns, and earth, reply. Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!

Christ has burst the gates of hell: Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids his rise; Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

## WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation  
& Prayer  
of Adoration +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Salutation +

1 Timothy 3:16b

Greetings...He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

Confession  
of Faith +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

**Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Praise to you, Lord Jesus: dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Gloria Patri  
#734 +

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

## GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

Call to  
Confession

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Elder Edgar Figueroa

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Through  
Confessing  
Our Sins  
Publicly &  
Privately

Assurance of  
Pardon

Song of  
Praise +

Elder Edgar Figueroa

### **Stronger**

There is Love, that came for us; humbled to a sinner's cross,  
You broke my shame and sinfulness; You rose again, victorious.

Faithfulness none can deny, through the storm and through the fire;  
There is truth that sets me free, Jesus Christ who lives in me.

You are stronger, You are stronger, sin is broken, You have saved me.  
It is written, Christ is risen, Jesus, You are Lord of all.

No beginning and no end, You're my hope and my defense,  
You came to seek and save the lost, You paid it all upon the cross.

You are stronger, You are stronger, sin is broken, You have saved me.  
It is written, Christ is risen, Jesus, You are Lord of all.

So let Your name be lifted higher, be lifted higher, be lifted higher!  
So let Your name be lifted higher, be lifted higher, be lifted higher!

You are stronger, You are stronger, sin is broken, You have saved me.  
It is written, Christ is risen, Jesus, You are Lord of all.

You are stronger, You are stronger, sin is broken, You have saved me.  
It is written, Christ is risen, Jesus, You are Lord of all.

Through the  
Reading of  
Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-26; 35-58

## GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray  
for Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

As We Give to  
God's Work  
Throughout  
the World

Musical Offering: "Is He Worthy?"

Elder Edgar Figueroa

VPC Choir

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 28

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

"The Resurrection Witness"

Pastor Ron Svendsen

## GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Song of  
Preparation +

### **In Christ Alone**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine –  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Passing of the  
Peace +

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of  
Response  
#274 +

### **Thine Be the Glory**

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.



Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.  
  
No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

God's  
Benediction  
Postlude

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Ben Mason

## Community Groups

We grow together in our faith, not just on Sunday mornings but by gathering to share meals, talk about the Bible, and pray with each other. Check out one of our community groups nearest to you! (VPC Community Groups meet 1st & 3rd Sundays Sept—May)

### Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena

*6:00pm*

Leader: Pastor Ron  
Contact: 818-894-9200  
Topic: 1 Thessalonians

### North Hills

*2nd & 4th Sundays at 3:30pm*

Leader: Elder Jaime Garcia  
Contact: 818-631-0408  
Topic: Westminster Confession of Faith

### Northridge

*Sunday at 7pm/monthly*

Leaders: Elders Bruce Mateko & Larry Shaw  
Contact: 818-886-1233  
Topic: Review/Discussion of Sunday's Sermon

### Santa Clarita

*2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00pm*

Leader: Pastor Ron  
Contact: 818-894-9200  
Topic: 1 Thessalonians

### Valencia/Santa Clarita

*Sunday at 2pm*

Leaders: Elders Jesse Cook & Edgar Figueroa  
Contact: 818-894-9200  
Topic: Redemptive-Historical Study of the Psalms

### West Hills

*Sunday at 6:30/monthly*

Leaders: Nathan Maack (assisting Elder John Martinez)  
Contact: (917) 916-7550  
Topic: Joshua

## Sunday Morning Sunday School & Worship

### Adult & Children's Sunday School

Prayer at 9:30am.

Sunday School at 10:00-10:45am. Classes are held for both our children (ages 3 and above) and adults each week. For more information see below:

#### Adult:

Study on Reformed Theology | Downstairs Fellowship Room

#### Children's Sunday School | Brewer Hall

##### Pre-K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Alexander Scott

- Show Me Jesus: Jesus is God

##### 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Nathan Maack

- Show Me Jesus: God's Servants

##### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Merilyn Velasquez

- G2R: 1 Corinthians to Philemon

##### Middle School and Up, John Martinez

- Westminster Shorter Catechism Q's 1-38

#### Basic Beliefs | 11:00am, Saturdays

For those interested in a personal relationship with God, exploring the distinctives of the Reformed faith, or membership at VPC. Attending this does not obligate you to join the church, but you do need to attend if you desire to become a member of VPC. Let Pastor Ron or the church office know if you are interested and join us in Pastor's office on Saturday!

### Post-Worship Fellowship & Snack

Refreshments and fellowship on the North Patio.

### Children are Welcome in Worship | Nursery Available

As part of the covenant family of God, we encourage you to keep your children with you in worship regardless of their age, so that they may follow your example in worshipping God. Don't worry if your children are a bit restless or noisy. However, if your child needs an alternate location, please use the Fellowship Room right off the Narthex.

The nursery is open and wonderful volunteers are ready to watch your little ones during the church service. Please visit the nursery for more information!

## Prayer & Praise

Please continue to pray for Bob Taylor as his complicated cancer treatments proceed.

## Mid-Week Gathering

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, 7pm

**Location:** VPC Fellowship Room

**Topic:** "Dust to Glory" by R.C. Sproul

## Serving at VPC

### **Music Ministry & Audio & Visual Team**

We are looking for singers and instrumentalists who are interested in serving on the music team. Additional volunteers to run sound for the service and capture video for the livestream are needed. Training is provided. If willing to serve, please email Ben Mason at [info@benmasonmusic.com](mailto:info@benmasonmusic.com).

### **Ushers & Parking Lot Security Volunteers**

Please contact Ed Arreaga at [earreaga@verizon.net](mailto:earreaga@verizon.net) for more information.

### **Meal Ministry**

If you, or anyone you know at VPC is in a difficult season where meals would be helpful, please reach out to the Deacons or directly to Theresa Martinez ([jtmarz06@gmail.com](mailto:jtmarz06@gmail.com)), to set up a meal train so we may serve you.

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

### **Connecting at VPC**

If you are a new or recent visitor to Valley Presbyterian Church, please email the church at [valleypresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:valleypresbyterian@gmail.com) so that we may add you to the VPC email list to keep you in the loop with the latest church news.

### **Women in the Word | Tuesday Mornings, 10:00am**

The Women's Community Group meets in the VPC Fellowship Room on Tuesday mornings. Please join us for a time in God's Word and prayer as we enjoy coffee and treats, friendship, and wonderful discussions. No childcare provided.

### **Women's Tuesday Evening Book Study**

We are going through the book *The Lord of Psalm 23* by David Gibson. Please contact Theresa Martinez ([jtmarz@gmail.com](mailto:jtmarz@gmail.com)) for more information.

### **Monthly Middle & High School Event**

The Youth will meet at the Cooks' home for our monthly Table Talk, in which we are thankful for their hospitality to the covenant community at VPC. If you already have plans, or would rather pass on this recurring event, that is okay. Perhaps in the future, interests may change. We will get together at the end of every month for the year, and you are always welcome to have your child/ren join us. If you have questions, please reach out to Elder John Martinez at 818.336.2179 or [firejohn777@gmail.com](mailto:firejohn777@gmail.com).

**-If you need assistance, please ask an usher-**



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

9200 Haskell Ave.  
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Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen  
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The LORD's Day