



VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Liturgy for  
March 9, 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

## GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to Worship +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn of  
Praise  
#4 +

### **All Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

All Praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, the God of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul he fills, the God who every sorrow stills.  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r hath made his gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning dawn or evening shade his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of his might, lo, all is just and all is right.  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not his flock, his chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band.  
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now and banish fear and sadness;  
To your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness;  
Though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well,  
To God all praise and glory!

## WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation  
& Prayer  
of Adoration +  
Salutation +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Psalm 121: 1-2

Pastor: We lift our eyes to the hills. Where does our help come from?

**All: Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Confession of  
Faith +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

**Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 96 & 97**

Pastor: What is the Lord's Supper?

**All: The Lord's Supper is a sacrament wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakes of his body and blood with all his benefits to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.**

Pastor: What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

**All: It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.**

Doxology  
#733 +

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

Call to  
Confession

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Through  
Confessing  
Our Sins  
Privately

**All: O Lord God, who creates life and wisely oversees all affairs. We come to you in the all-prevailing name of Jesus with no worthiness, merit, or works of our own to plead but with the cry of the tax collector, “Be merciful to me, a sinner.” We are often straying from your ways, opposing your authority, and abusing your goodness. Remove our guilt, renew our hearts, restore our joy. Subdue in us the love of sin and give us grace that we may not be careless with your favor and grace. Amen.**

Assurance  
of Pardon

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Song of  
Praise +

**Only a Holy God**

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.

Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God.  
Only my Holy God!

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Through the  
Reading of  
Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-37  
New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

## **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

Pastor Ron Svendsen

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 26:17-30

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

“The Passover of Jesus”

Pastor Ron Svendsen

# GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Hymn of  
Preparation  
#257 +

## **Stricken Smitten and Afflicted**

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; yes ,my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's son, yet David's Lord;  
By his Son God now has spoken: 'tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?  
Friends thro' fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress;  
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would interpose to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly; here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;  
Christ's the Rock of our salvation, his the name of which we boast.  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Passing of the  
Peace +



# GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of  
Response  
#498 +

## **Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners**

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;  
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,  
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;  
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.  
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

God's  
Benediction

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Postlude

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:

“Route 66,” An Overview of the Books of the Bible | Downstairs Fellowship Room

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

##### Pre-K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Patty Reyes

- Show Me Jesus: Jesus is God's Son

##### 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Theresa Martinez

- Show Me Jesus: The Teachings of Jesus from the Gospels

##### 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Grant Gates

- G2R: Acts to Romans

##### Middle School and Up, Jesse Cook

- 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 Audrey DeRoches' sister, Patty, whose cancer is worsening. She is headed for hospice care and the prognosis is not good. Pray for Audrey and Michelle as well as they have gone to Las Vegas to be with Patty.

## 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.

### **Sunday Supper | March 30, Following the Worship Service**

### **Choir Practice | Saturday, April 5, 10:00am**

### **Church Workday | Saturday, April 5**

## Budget Update YTD as of 2/28/25

Tithes and Offerings: \$85,506.73

Expenses: \$101,340.42

Profit/Loss: -\$15,833.69

*(Miscellaneous Income: \$105,975.25)*

**-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.  
North Hills, CA 91343  
(818) 894-9200  
[valleypresbyterian.org](http://valleypresbyterian.org)

Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen  
[ronald.svendsen@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.svendsen@gmail.com)

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The LORD's Day