

Epiphany



oaks parish

Our Mission

To abide in Christ Jesus for the renewal of all things.

Our Core Values

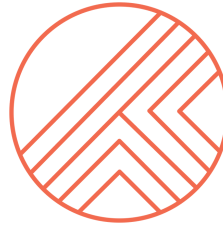
Gospel of Grace



The gospel of grace is the foundation of everything we are and do at Oaks Parish.

At Oaks Parish, we experience holistic flourishing through the person and work of Christ. The death and resurrection of Christ has redeemed us individually, and collectively as a church; we try to mirror that grace in all we do.

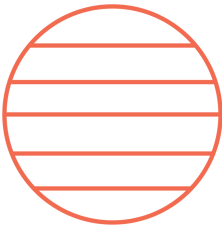
Faithful Presence



We are committed to Portland and aspire to be a church woven into the fabric

of the city. Oaks Parish is a uniquely welcoming and inclusive place. We greet our neighbors, friends, families, and co-workers with infectious hospitality, faithfully showing the love of Jesus in Portland.

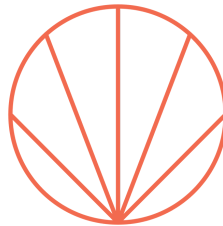
Formative Rhythms



The rhythms of our life shape our character, and at Oaks Parish we anchor our

practices in Scripture and the historical church. Our liturgical and expressive practice of gathered worship on Sunday pervades and shapes our rhythms of prayer, study of Scripture, and gatherings throughout the week. This process of intentional formation, or discipleship, shapes us to be more like Jesus.

Extended Family



Oaks Parish is intensely relational. We strive to live together as a diverse,

multi-generational extended family—not just on Sunday, but throughout the week. We share our stories and how God is redeeming them even as we work, play, and serve together. We want everyone to experience being known and loved in Christ.

Quotes for Reflection

Willie James Jennings, *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*

God's providence is always characterized by God's improvisation, which tirelessly turns us away from death and toward life.

Thomas Merton, *The Hope Faith Gives Us*

It seems that we all have to face one sad thing after another. But let us not forget the hope our faith gives us. God is our strength and no amount of trouble should make us fail to realize it. On the contrary, trouble should help us deepen and confirm our trust. This is an old story, but as far as I am concerned, it is the one we always get back to. There is no other.

C.S. Lewis, *Prince Caspian*

"Aslan," said Lucy, "you're bigger."

"That is because you are older, little one," answered he.

"Not because you are?"

"I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 102

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry come to you.

Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress.

**Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call.**

All day long my enemies taunt me;
those who deride me use my name for a curse.
But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever;
your name endures to all generations.

**The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.**

Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord:
that he looked down from his holy height,
to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die;
so that the name of the Lord may be declared in Zion,
and his praise in Jerusalem, when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the Lord.

**Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

They will perish, but you endure;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You change them like clothing, and they pass away.

But you are the same, and your years have no end.

Songs of Praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight.
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, o power of my power.

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance now and always.
Thou and thou only be first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach Heaven's joys, o bright heaven's sun.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, o ruler of all.

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New Wine

In the crushing, in the pressing,
you are making new wine.
In the soil I now surrender,
you are breaking new ground.
You are breaking new ground.

So I yield to you and to your careful hand;
when I trust you I don't need to understand.

Make me your vessel,
make me an offering,
make me whatever you want me to be.
I came here with nothing
but all you have given me;
Jesus bring new wine out of me.

'Cause where there is new wine there is new power.
There is new freedom and the kingdom is here.
I lay down my old flames to carry your new fire today.

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Scripture Reading

Acts 8:1-13 NRSV

1 That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

4 Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. 6 The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, 7 for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

9 Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. 10 All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Prayer

Lord, we offer these gifts to you with thankful hearts and in joyful praise. As we give of our money and resources, we surrender our whole beings to you in worship and adoration. May these offerings extend the work of your kingdom in your church, your community, and your world. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:14-25 NRSV

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! 21 You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." 24 Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me."

25 Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: The Providence of Scattering

The Acts of the Apostles: Witness to Judea & Samaria

Notes

Application Questions

- 1 Where do you feel defeated right now?
2. Recall the quote from Thomas Merton in "The Hope Faith Gives Us." How can this reshape your view of God's action amidst defeat?
3. In what ways have you found God "bigger" through the passage of time?

Confession of Sin

We have great reason, O Lord, to be humbled before you, on account of the coldness of our hearts, the disorder of our lives, and the prevalence of worldly affections within us. Too often we have indulged the tempers which we ought to have subdued, and we have neglected your call to love and justice. O Lord, be merciful to us for your Son Jesus Christ's sake. Produce in us deep repentance and a lively faith in that Savior who has died for our sins and risen again for our justification. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 12:2-3 NRSV

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Confession of Faith

We believe in God, the father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Jesus, All for Jesus

Jesus, all for Jesus,
all I am and have and ever hope to be.
Jesus, all for Jesus,
all I am and have and ever hope to be.

All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans,
I surrender these unto your hands.
All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans,
I surrender these unto your hands.

For it's only in your will that I am free,
for it's only in your will that I am free.

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Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is good and right to do so.

Communion

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

We do not dismiss in any set order, come forward when you feel ready.
Form two lines down the center aisle, return to your seats by the side aisles.
Take the elements and consume them at your seat at your discretion.
Bread is locally sourced and gluten free.
Choose between red wine and white grape juice.

Rest in You

Who is Lord, but our Lord? Who is God; only God.
You are the highest, you are most good.

Matchless is your love, our praise will rise above;
your peace like a river floods over us.

Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.
This is where my hope lies, this is where my soul sighs,
and I will always find my rest in you.

So full of mercy, beauty, and mystery;
you are most hidden, but always with us

Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.
This is where my hope lies, this is where my soul sighs,
and I will always find my rest in you.
This is where my hope lies, this is where my soul sighs,
and I will always find my rest in you.

You cannot change, yet you change everything.

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Benediction

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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Prayers for Those Not Communing

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared confess, but through you I am more loved than I ever dared hope. Thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to see in you the fulfillment of all my true needs, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to see that your Gospel is bigger than my sin, and that your work breaks the power of sin as well as freeing me from its penalty. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and author of my faith. Amen.

oaks parish

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Oaks Parish: Get Connected

Welcome to Oaks Parish

To make our community more accessible, our worship service is available online and in person.

Download the Oaks Parish App

Text OaksParish App to (833) 245-5311 or search for Oaks Parish in your app store!

Sign up for the Weekly Email

Get detailed announcements right to your inbox by signing up for our weekly email at oaksparish.org.

New Visitor Form

Thanks for joining us today, we would love to connect with you! Fill out the linked form below or visit oaksparish.org/visitor and someone from our team will be in touch soon!



Morning Prayer

Join us online every Wednesday morning from 6:30-7am for morning prayer! This is a time for us to pray together as a church and practice spending time with God on our own. To join us, visit oaksparish.org/morningprayer

Social Hour

Join us after church on Sunday, January 15th for coffee, donuts, and conversation!

Newcomers' Gathering

Learn more about the vision, mission, and community of Oaks Parish at Newcomers' Gathering on Sunday, January 29, directly following the service! Lunch will be provided.

Discipleship Groups

Two new discipleship groups will be launching this winter! Men's and women's discipleship groups are where community is strengthened and time is spent intentionally abiding with Christ. Sign up today at oaksparish.org/discipleship