

Epiphany



*oaks parish*

## Our Mission

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

## Our Core Values

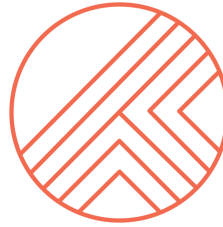
### Gospel of Grace



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.

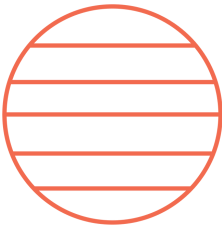
### Faithful Presence



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.

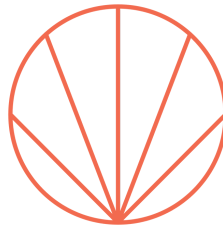
### Formative Rhythms



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

### **Martin Luther King Jr., “Nonviolence and Racial Justice,” *The Christian Century* 74 (February 6, 1957)**

May all who suffer oppression in this world reject the self-defeating method of retaliatory violence and choose the method that seeks to redeem.

### **N.T. Wright, *Acts for Everyone***

If the death and resurrection of Jesus is the hinge on which the great door of history swung open at last, the conversion of Saul of Tarsus was the moment when all the ancient promises of God gathered themselves up, rolled themselves into a ball, and came hurtling through that open door and out into the wide world beyond.

### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship***

The Christian must treat his enemy as a brother, and requite his hostility with love. His behavior must be determined not by the way others treat him, but by the treatment he himself receives from Jesus; it has only one source, and that is the will of Jesus.

### **Tim Keller, *Forgive***

[Wraith] is an old word for a ghost, a spirit that can't rest. Ghosts, according to legend, stay in the place where something was done to them, and they can't get over it or stop reliving it. If you don't deal with your wrath through forgiveness, wrath can make you a wraith, turning you slowly but surely into a restless spirit, into someone who's controlled by the past, someone who's haunted.

## Call to Worship

### *Psalm 104*

Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, you are very great.

**You are clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

**You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;**

You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works.  
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.**

## Songs of Praise

### Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope by thy good pleasure  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor;  
daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

## Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.

Into thy freedom, gladness and light,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my sickness into thy health,  
out of my wanting and into thy wealth,  
out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of thy cross,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm,  
out of life's storms and into thy calm,  
out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into thy blessed will to abide,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of myself to dwell in thy love,  
out of despair into raptures above,  
upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,  
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the joy and light of thy home,  
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold,  
into the peace of thy sheltering fold,  
ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to thee.

## Scripture Reading

### Acts 9:1-19 NRSV

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

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.

### Stories of Grace

Luke Creswell - Discipleship Groups

### Passing of the Peace



## Scripture Reading

### Acts 9:20-31 NRSV

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” 21 All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” 22 Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

23 After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26 When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Bryan Buck: The Road to Forgiveness

The Acts of the Apostles: Witness to Judea & Samaria

## Notes

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## Application Questions

1. In what specific ways have you experienced God's grace when you knew you didn't deserve it?
2. Why did Ananias and Barnabas take a risk on Saul?
3. Saul's experience of forgiveness with God and the community of disciples led to a new season of peace and flourishing in the church. What's the connection?

## 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.

# A Thousand Tongues

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise.  
The glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of His grace.

Jesus the name that charms our fears  
that bids our sorrows cease.  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

Jesus, you're the name above all names;  
Jesus Lamb of God.  
Jesus, you're the King of salvation;  
who was and is to come.

He breaks the power of canceled sin;  
he sets the prisoner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God  
assist me to proclaim.  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of Your name.

Who was and is to come  
Who was and is to come

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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.

## Give Thanks

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
His mercy endures; his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story;  
those he redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
His mercy endures; his love endures forever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love.  
Let us raise up our voice with songs of joy.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
His mercy endures; his love endures;  
His mercy endures; his love endures;  
His mercy endures; his love endures forever.

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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.

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*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.

## Sign up for the Weekly Email

Get detailed announcements right to your inbox by signing up for our weekly email at [oaksparish.org](http://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](http://oaksparish.org/visitor) and someone from our team will be in touch soon!



## Morning Prayer

Join us online every Wednesday from 6:30-7am for morning prayer! This is a time to pray together as a church and practice spending time with God on our own. Join us at [oaksparish.org/morningprayer](http://oaksparish.org/morningprayer).

## Discipleship Groups

Men's and women's discipleship groups are where community is strengthened and time is spent intentionally abiding with Christ. Sign up by January 22 at [oaksparish.org/discipleship](http://oaksparish.org/discipleship).

## 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. Please RSVP via the New Visitor Form (QR code on the left).

## OP Kids Teacher Training

Acorns and Saplings teachers are invited to a training workshop on Sunday, January 29th after the service. Lunch will be provided! Please RSVP to [kids@oaksparish.org](mailto:kids@oaksparish.org).

## Congregational Meeting

Members and regular attendees, please mark your calendars for our winter congregational meeting on Sunday, February 12. At the meeting we will provide updates on the life of our church and share about ministry developments for the spring. We will also nominate a new class of elders who will join our elder team this summer.

## Infant & Toddler Room

If you have an infant or toddler who is active in the service, we have a room for you, located directly behind the sanctuary. Find toys and books for your little ones and a way for you to still engage the service!