

Epiphany



*oaks parish*

## Our Mission

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

## Our Core Values

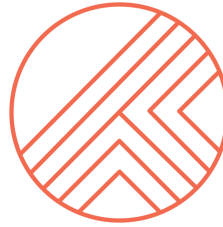
### Gospel of Grace



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.

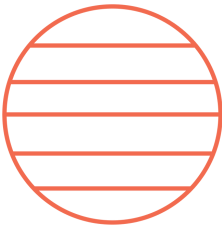
### Faithful Presence



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.

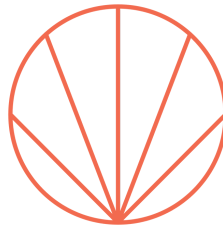
### Formative Rhythms



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

### **Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life***

How we spend our days is of course how we spend our lives.

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

Do not belittle the ministry of stitching, sewing, knitting and generally providing for the needs of the larger community – especially at a time before anyone dreamed of mass-produced clothes. And do not forget to celebrate, as Luke does here, the fact that the apparently ordinary people are not ordinary to God.

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

What seemed to be a contradiction, holy and human, is in fact the home of God's generosity, mercy, and sovereignty. Jesus is God drawing the everyday into holiness, into God's own life. Everyday people are made holy in Christ. Everyday people are made holy by Christ, and this is a holiness that will last, not be episodic, and constitute a new space for living life and knowing ourselves. "Saints" are those marked by the new gestures of belief in Jesus. They worship a crucified Lord in the Spirit, and in the Spirit they live the everyday, knowing that each moment has been made sacred by God's faithful presence. Peter travels from the saints to the saints inside the inescapability of a God who is making people new.

### **Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 5, On the Providence of God**

God, in His ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at His pleasure.

## Call to Worship

### *Psalm 105*

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

**He is the Lord our God;  
He is mindful of his covenant forever,  
of the word that he commanded,  
for a thousand generations.**

## Songs of Praise

### For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love, which from our birth,  
over and around us lies.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the church, that evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine  
to our race so freely given.  
For that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

## Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted (Look to Jesus)

Come, ye souls by sin afflicted,  
bowed with fruitless sorrow down;  
by the broken law convicted,  
through the cross behold the crown;  
Look to Jesus; look to Jesus;  
look to Jesus; mercy flows through him alone.

Take his easy yoke and wear it;  
love will make your obedience sweet,  
Christ will give you strength to bear it,  
while his grace shall guide your feet.  
Safe to glory, safe to glory,  
safe to glory, where his ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the eyes that see him,  
blest the ears that hear his voice;  
blessed are the souls that trust him,  
and in him alone rejoice;  
His commandments, his commandments,  
his commandments then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,  
light to newly opened eyes,  
like full springs in deserts dreary,  
is the rest the cross supplies;  
All who taste it, all who taste it,  
all who taste it shall to rest immortal rise.

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## Scripture Reading

### Micah 6:1-8 NRSV

1 Listen to what the Lord says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;  
let the hills hear what you have to say.

2 “Hear, you mountains, the Lord’s accusation;  
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the Lord has a case against his people;  
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

3 “My people, what have I done to you?

How have I burdened you? Answer me.

4 I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of  
slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

5 My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted  
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

6 With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

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 9:32-43 NRSV

32As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. 33There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years.

34"Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. 35All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

36In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. 37About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

39Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

40Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Bryan Buck: The Gospel for the Ordinary

The Acts of the Apostles: Witness to Judea & Samaria

## Notes

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## Application Questions

1. Why is it difficult to believe that God is working through the mundane events of life?
2. How do the developments recorded in verses 32-43 contribute to the larger story of Acts?
3. What's one way that you've seen God reveal himself in your life this week? How can this serve as an encouragement for the coming week?

## 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.

# The Goodness of Jesus

Come you weary heart now to Jesus;  
come you anxious soul now and see.  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears;  
rest here in his wondrous peace.

Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus,  
satisfied, he is all that I need.  
May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days  
in the goodness of Jesus.

Come find what this world cannot offer;  
come and find your joy here complete.  
Taste the living water, never thirst again;  
rest here in his wondrous peace.

Come and find your hope now in Jesus;  
he is all he said he would be.  
Grace is overflowing from the savior's heart;  
rest here in his wondrous peace.

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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.

## Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of his peace with no end.  
Comfort, comfort those in darkness,  
tell them that God's pardon waits for them.

The glory of the Lord now on earth is shed,  
in deserts far and near he will raise what's dead.  
His peace has now been spoken, his word is never broken,  
the kingdom of our God is now here.

Straight shall, straight shall be what's crooked;  
making all the rougher places plain.  
Let your, let your hearts be humble  
befitting our God's glory and his reign.

Let the valleys rise to meet him, the hills all will bow down.  
Let the valleys rise to greet him, the hills bow down in praise.  
Let the valleys rise to greet him, the hills bow down in praise.

The glory of the Lord now on earth is shed,  
in deserts far and near he will raise what's dead.  
The glory of the Lord now on earth is shed,  
in deserts far and near he will raise what's dead.  
His peace has been spoken, his word is never broken,  
the kingdom of God is now here.

# 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

There's still time to sign up for a men's or women's discipleship group! Check out [oaksparish.org/discipleship](http://oaksparish.org/discipleship) for more information.

## Newcomers' Gathering

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

## OP Kids Teacher Training

Acorns and Saplings teachers are invited to a training workshop today after the service. Lunch will be provided!

## 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.

## Volunteer for Easter Meals

Last year's Easter dinners at Oaks Parish were a great time of community and fellowship! We're looking for individuals or families who are interested in hosting an Easter meal this year or helping the hosts clean up. To volunteer, email [community@oaksparish.org](mailto:community@oaksparish.org).