

Lent



*oaks parish*

## Our Mission

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

## Our Core Values

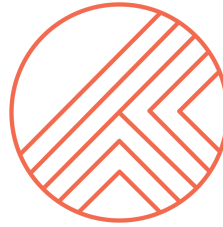
### Gospel of Grace



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.

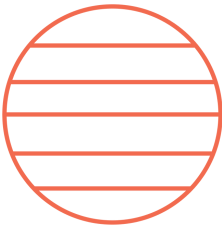
### Faithful Presence



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.

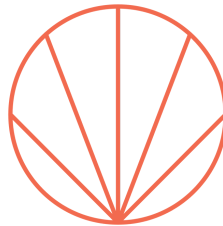
### Formative Rhythms



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

### John of the Cross, *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*

“Where two or three are gathered to consider what is for the greater honor and glory of my name, there I am in the midst of them--that is, clarifying and confirming truths in their hearts” (Matthew 18:20). It is noteworthy that he did not say: Where there is one alone, there I am; rather, he said: Where there are at least two. Thus God announces that he does not want the soul to believe only by itself the communications it thinks are of divine origin, or for anyone to be assured or confirmed in them without the Church or her ministers. God will not bring clarification and confirmation of the truth to the heart of one who is alone. Such a person would remain weak and cold in regard to truth.

### Peter Enns, *Exodus*

Exodus 19 is a clear reminder that the God we meet with regularly, by virtue of the intercessory work of the risen Christ and into whose presence we have confidence to come, is the Creator of everything. He is fearful, threatening, unsettling, all-powerful, all-knowing. He is, to use the well-known expression of the beaver in C. S. Lewis’s classic children’s book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, not safe but good. He is both someone to be feared and the one who has traversed the universe to meet us where we are, in the form of a human being, born of a woman, who bore our sin in his own body and who loves us dearly. It is perhaps, in the end, a paradox well worth maintaining: We fear him because he is good; we see his goodness because we fear him.

### John Chryssavgis, *In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*

The desert, while accursed [in the Scriptures], was never seen as an empty region. It was a place that was full of action.... It was a space that provided an opportunity, and even a calling, for divine vision. In the desert, you were invited to shake off all forms of idolatry, all kinds of earthly limitations, in order to behold—or, rather, to be held before—an image of the heavenly God. There, you were confronted with another reality, with the presence of a boundless God, whose grace was without any limits at all. You could never avoid that perspective of revelation. After all, you cannot hide in the desert; there is no room for lying or deceit there. Your very self is reflected in the dry desert, and you are obliged to face up to this self.

## Call to Worship

*from Psalm 102*

Let this be written for a future generation,  
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.

**For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high;  
from the heavens he beheld the earth.**

That he might hear the groan of the captive;

**That he might set free those condemned to die.**

That they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord,  
and his praise in Jerusalem;

**When the peoples are gathered together,  
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.**

On this day the Lord has acted;

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Songs of Praise

### Father Long Before Creation

Father, long before creation  
Thou hadst chosen us in love,  
And that love so deep, so moving,  
Draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us.  
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion,  
Yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and His covenant  
Through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children  
Must forever praise His name.

God's compassion is my story,  
Is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing  
Moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us  
That His only Son He gave.

Loving Father now before Thee  
We will ever praise Thy love,  
And our songs will sound unceasing  
'Til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, giving glory  
To our God and to the Lamb;  
Giving glory, giving glory  
To our God and to the Lamb.

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

No turning back no turning back!

The world behind me the cross before me.

The world behind me the cross before me.

The world behind me the cross before me.

No turning back no turning back!

Though none go with me I still will follow.

Though none go with me I still will follow.

Though none go with me I still will follow.

No turning back no turning back!

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## Gospel Reading

### John 4:7-26 NRSV

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

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 Jesus, because of your cross we know  
that in losing our lives, we find them in you.

In this season of Lent, show us how to give  
abundantly, joyfully, and faithfully.

With open hands and generous hearts,  
we lay our gifts before you. Amen.

### Stories of Grace

Missional Partners - Lori Jackson

### Passing of the Peace



## Old Testament Reading

### Exodus 19 NRSV

1 On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. 3 Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: 4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, 6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

7 So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 The people all answered as one: “Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.” Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. 9 Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.”

When Moses had told the words of the people to the Lord, 10 the Lord said to Moses: “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes 11 and prepare for the third day, because on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 You shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Be careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. Any who touch the mountain shall be put to death. 13 No hand shall touch them, but they shall be stoned or shot with arrows; whether animal or human being, they shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain.” 14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people.

He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. 15 And he said to the people, "Prepare for the third day; do not go near a woman."

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. 19 As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. 20 When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. 21 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people not to break through to the Lord to look; otherwise many of them will perish. 22 Even the priests who approach the Lord must consecrate themselves or the Lord will break out against them." 23 Moses said to the Lord, "The people are not permitted to come up to Mount Sinai; for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and keep it holy.'" 24 The Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you; but do not let either the priests or the people break through to come up to the Lord; otherwise he will break out against them." 25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Bryan Buck: Commitment: The People Consecrated  
Postures of Discipleship

## Notes

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## Application Questions

1. How does Exodus 19 reorient our understanding of God's purposes in the desert?
2. What intentional decisions do you need to make for your own consecration?
3. How does the final scene of this passage illuminate the continuing ministry of Jesus?

## Confession of Sin

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer  
bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;

open us to a future in which we can be changed;

and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

### John 3:16-17 NRSV

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone  
who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed,  
God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in  
order that the world might be saved through him.

## 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.

# Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of your love.

Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every pow'r as thou shalt choose,  
every pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself and I will be  
ever only all for thee,  
ever only all for thee.

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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.

## Lord of All My Days

My soul is restless. I'm endlessly striving.

I boast in my strength my stride, they have driven me.

So far, I run so far and in your mercy, Lord,  
you silence and still my soul, make me whole.

Draw me up, draw me in,  
teach me how to rest again,  
you are Lord of all my days.  
Lift me up, lift my head,  
turn my eyes to you again,  
you are Lord of all my days.  
you are Lord of all my days.

Pull back these ribs you, show me my heart so cold,  
bringing new life to these hollow bones.

Come all you weary, heavy and laden,  
Jesus is ready, rise anew.

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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.

## New Visitor Form

Thanks for joining us today - we would love to connect with you! Visit [oaksparish.org/visitor](https://oaksparish.org/visitor) and someone from our team will be in touch soon!

## Sign up for the Weekly Email

Get detailed announcements right to your inbox by signing up for our weekly email at [oaksparish.org](https://oaksparish.org).

## The Daily Lectionary

The daily lectionary is a tool for personal devotion with Scripture readings and prayers. As we utilize the daily lectionary in our Lenten sermon series and other resources, you can follow along during your personal devotional time at the QR code below.



## Morning Prayer

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

## A Lenten Prayer Journey

Dive deeper into the season of Lent with this weekly companion guide, designed to center your heart on Scripture and prayer. Download at [oaksparish.org/lent](https://oaksparish.org/lent).

## Lent Family Resources

Visit [oaksparish.org/lent](https://oaksparish.org/lent) for simple and practical ways to practice Lent with children of all ages.

## Social Hour

Join us on Sunday, March 12 for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after the service.

## Newcomers Gathering

New(er) to Oaks Parish? We'd love to have lunch with you! After the service on March 19th, we'll provide lunch and share more about our mission, vision, and community. We can't wait to get to know you better too! Please RSVP at [oaksparish.org/visitor](https://oaksparish.org/visitor).

## Save the Date for Abide

If you need spiritual respite, meaningful time away on your own or with your spouse, or a place to process how God is working in your life, mark your calendar for this year's Abide Retreat, April 28-30, at Mt Angel Abbey. The retreat is open to individuals and couples. Registration will open on March 19th!