

Eastertide



*oaks parish*

## Our Mission

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

## Our Core Values

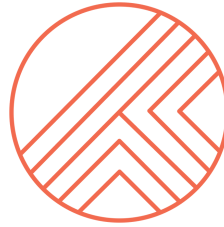
### Gospel of Grace



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.

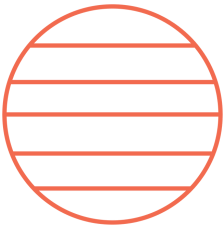
### Faithful Presence



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.

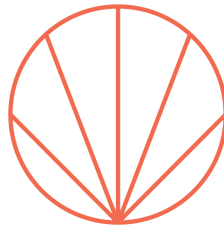
### Formative Rhythms



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

### Charles Wesley, And Can It Be

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free

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

Luke once again slows the action down long enough for us to see a church in total captivity. This is a knowledge that not enough Western Christians know or understand. Not enough of us know what it is like to be trapped in space and wrapped in prison guards. Indeed the pedagogy of this lesson is yet to penetrate our collective ecclesial consciousness.

### Tim Keller, The Sin of Racism

The biblical view of justice gives full weight to both personal responsibility and social structures while based on a rich understanding of human life that goes well beyond the world's reductionistic alternative views...When people institutionalize something, they create structures that keep the practice going long after the founders of the practice leave the scene.

### John Calvin, Commentary on Acts Vol 1

For Luke determined not only what had happened after that Herod was dead, but also by this example to encourage us, that we may be assured that God will do that, in all ages, which he then did, to the end the gospel may at length break through all impediments of the enemies, and that the more the Church is diminished, it may the more increase through the heavenly blessing.

## Call to Worship

*from Psalm 111*

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.  
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.**

They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.  
He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.

**Holy and awesome is his name;  
his praise endures forever!**

## Songs of Praise

### Send Out Your Light (Psalm 43)

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause  
against the deceitful man, O deliver us.

For you are the God in whom I take refuge.

Why have you rejected me?

I walk around confused.

Send out your light and your truth,  
let them lead me.

Bring me to your holy hill.

to your dwelling.

Then I will go to the altar of God,

to God, my exceeding joy.

Then I will praise him with my guitar,

oh my joy, my joy,

oh my joy, my joy.

Why are you cast down low, O my soul?

Why are you cast down low and in turmoil?

Hope in God for I shall again praise him,

hope in God for he is my salvation!

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# How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure.  
That He should give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns His face away.  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross;  
my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life;  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything -  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart -  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

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## Old Testament Reading

### Genesis 9:8-16 NRSV

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

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

God of great gifts:

This morning we give you praise,  
we give you glory, we give you thanks!  
With resurrection humming in our hearts,  
our minds are tuned to your song of peace!  
We joyfully present these gifts to you,  
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,  
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen.

## Sacrament of Baptism

This morning we baptize Thomas Ivan Joshua Baker as a child of God's covenant.

### For the parents:

1. Do you acknowledge Thomas's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate Thomas to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### For the congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting Ivan and Kelsey in the Christian nurture of Thomas?

## Passing of the Peace



## New Testament Reading

### Acts 12:1-25 NRSV

1 About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. 2 He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. 3 After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) 4 When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. 5 While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

6 The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. 11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

12 As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. 14 On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. 15 They said to her,

“You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.” 16 Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. 17 He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, “Tell this to James and to the believers.” Then he left and went to another place.

18 When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. 19 When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

20 Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king’s chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king’s country for food. 21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. 22 The people kept shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!” 23 And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

24 But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. 25 Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Bryan Buck: The Church Triumphant

The Acts of the Apostles: Witness to the Ends of the Earth

## Notes

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### Application Questions

1. What threats have you observed to the church? Was there any way in which you saw God's hand in the situation?
2. How does this passage shed light on the reality of systemic injustice, its causes, and God's response?
3. How can you find gospel-centered hope by 'widening the aperture' this week?

## Confession of Sin

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling, and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

### 1 John 2:1-2 NRSV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

## 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.

## Remember Us in Mercy

We have heard of your great works,  
we have seen the mark you made,  
and we call to you, remember us in mercy.

We will climb our highest towers,  
and look out over our walls,  
we will wait for you, to find us in your mercy.

God of our fathers you delivered, you deliver,  
you stood before eternal hills, and they were scattered.  
You are the everlasting one, you remember us in mercy.

We have stained our house with blood,  
we have done such evil things,  
and we call to you, remember us in mercy.

We have plundered our own homes,  
we have no one else but you,  
we will wait for you, to find us in your mercy.

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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.

### New Visitor Form

Thanks for joining us today - we would love to connect with you! Visit [oaksparish.org/visitor](http://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](http://oaksparish.org) or using the QR code below.



### Download the OP App

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

### Morning Prayer

Join us every Wednesday online at 6:30am to pray together for our community and beyond at [oaksparish.org/morningprayer](http://oaksparish.org/morningprayer).

### Worship Night at All City

Join other churches from our community in worship and prayer for the students, staff, and faculty of Warner Pacific University on Wednesday, April 19th at 7pm at All City Church (2700 SE 67th Ave).

### New Membership Gathering

If you've attended Newcomers Gathering and are ready to put down roots as a member at Oaks Parish, join us for New Membership Gathering on April 23rd after the service. We'll provide lunch, discuss the significance of membership at Oaks Parish, and answer any questions. Email [martha@oaksparish.org](mailto:martha@oaksparish.org) to RSVP.