

Eastertide



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

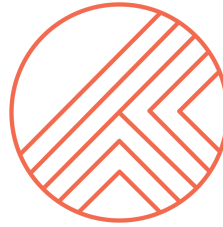
Gospel of Grace



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.

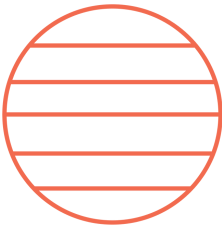
Faithful Presence



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.

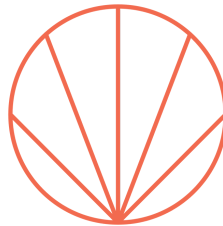
Formative Rhythms



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

N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone

Acts 15 is about the reassertion and the working through of the principle already established in chapter 11, which concerns not a general or abstract point about tradition and innovation, but a very specific and concrete point which is central to the whole of early Christianity: precisely because God has fulfilled his covenant with Israel in sending Jesus as Messiah, the covenant family is now thrown open to all, without distinction. It isn't a matter, it can't be a matter, of belonging to one particular ethnic group, no matter how sacred, how chosen, how blessed with God's presence and entrusted with carrying his promise to the world. It is time for that promise to be delivered, not kept as a private possession. This was what the 'tradition', at its best, was actually about all along.

St. John of the Cross, Ascent to Mt. Carme

Taking Scripture as our guide we do not err, since the Holy Spirit speaks to us through it. Should I misunderstand or be mistaken on some point, whether I deduce it from Scripture or not, I will not be intending to deviate from the true meaning of Sacred Scripture or from the doctrine of our Holy Mother the Catholic Church. Should there be some mistake, I submit entirely to the Church, or even to anyone who judges more competently about the matter than I.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Only that fellowship which faces such disillusionment, with all its unhappy and ugly aspects, begins to be what it should be in God's sight, begins to grasp in faith the promise that is given to it. The sooner this shock of disillusionment comes to an individual and to a community the better for both. A community which cannot bear and cannot survive such a crisis, which insists upon keeping its illusion when it should be shattered, permanently loses in that moment the promise of Christian community. Sooner or later it will collapse. Every human wish dream that is injected into the Christian community is a hindrance to genuine community and must be banished if genuine community is to survive. He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial. God hates visionary dreaming; it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal

Quotes for Reflection (continued)

of community demands that it be realized by God, by others, and by himself. He enters the community of Christians with his demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God himself accordingly. He stands adamant, a living reproach to all others in the circle of brethren. He acts as if he is the creator of the Christian community, as if his dream binds men together. When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure. When his ideal picture is destroyed, he sees the community going to smash. So he becomes, first an accuser of his brethren, then an accuser of God, and finally the despairing accuser of himself.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 116

I love the Lord because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is merciful.**

What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord;**

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord!

Songs of Praise

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
in the dawning of the king.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing in our darkness, now the light of life has come,
look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery,
he, the perfect son of man.
In his living in his suffering,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man,
Christ the great and sure fulfillment, of the law in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners,
hangs the lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery
slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain him,
praise the Lord he is alive.
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope,
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

Words & Music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Michael Bleecker
© 2012 Dayspring Music, LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.), Bleecker Publishing (Admin. by Michael Bleecker), and Centricity Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
CCLI License # 11355776

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your lovingkindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain,
There's salvation in your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, yours is the victory!

Words & Music by Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham
© 2021 Bethel Music Publishing
CCLI License # 11355776

New Testament Reading

Acts 15:1-21 NRSV

1 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. 3 So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. 8 And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; 9 and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. 10 Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? 11 On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

12 The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13 After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how

God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. 15 This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

16 ‘After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,

17 so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things
18 known from long ago.’

19 Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, 20 but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. 21 For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.”

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.

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

Acts 15:36-41 NRSV

36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” 37 Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. 38 But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. 39 The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: The Reality of the Church

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

Notes

Application Questions

1. In Acts 15 the church struggled to figure out issues of theology and relationship. How does this inform your own view of the church?
2. How does the gospel shape both expectations and reality in the church?
3. How might God be calling you to consider your own commitment to the church?

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.

We Labor Unto Glory

My God my God where e'er I go, glory.
Where I reap and where I sow, glory.
When my hands they grip the thorn, glory.
In the still and in the storm glory, glory.

Oh we labor unto glory, till heaven and earth are one.
Oh we labor unto glory until God's kingdom comes.

The sun it shines and then goes down, glory,
Rain it pours and beats the ground, glory.
Dust it blows and ends my days, glory.
Hearts they burn beneath your gaze, glory, glory.

My heart my hands they're kingdom bound, glory.
Where thorns no longer curse the ground, glory.
Trim the wick ignite the flame, glory.
My work it will not be in vain, glory, glory.

Words & Music by Craig Harris and Isaac Wardell
© Hymns From The Porter's Gate (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
CCLI License # 11355776

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.

Be Still My Soul

Be still my soul, the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to your God to order and provide
in ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still my soul, your best your heav'nly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake.
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still my soul, when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears.
Then shall you better know His love, His heart
who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still my soul, your Jesus can repay
from His own fullness all He takes away.

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.

Words & Music by Jean Sibelius, Katharina Amalia von Schlegel, and Jane Laurie © Public Domain
CCLI License # 11355776

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.

Words by Thomas Ken & Music by Louis Bourgeois © Public Domain

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

Bryan Buck	bryan@oaksparish.org	Lead Pastor
Amanda Buck	amanda@oaksparish.org	Director of Women's Formation
Marylu Gray	kids@oaksparish.org	Director of OP Kids
Martha Van Houten	martha@oaksparish.org	Director of Parish Formation
Alex Wenig	alex@oaksparish.org	Director of Music
Community Life Team	communitylife@oaksparish.org	

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 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 or using the QR code below.



Morning Prayer

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

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Additional support is needed on our volunteer teams this summer in setup, OP Kids, and tech. Email martha@oaksparish.org with your interest.

Volunteer with Family Promise

Oaks Parish is partnering with Family Promise Metro East to serve our houseless neighbors by providing meals and support for participating families. Volunteer to make a meal or stay overnight during our next week of service from May 14-20th. Visit the Missions tab on the OP website to sign up.

Housing for Robbins Family

Our missional partners in Malawi, the Robbins family, will be on home assignment this summer and visiting Oaks Parish the last week of July! They are in need of housing between approximately July 21-24th that sleeps 5 people comfortably and is pet-free. Email martha@oaksparish.org if you have any leads.

Spring Congregational Meeting

Members and regular attenders, please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 21st for our spring congregational meeting after the service. At the meeting we will provide updates on the life of our church and share about ministry developments for the summer.