

Ordinary Time



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

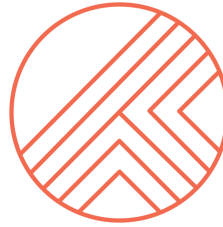
Gospel of Grace



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.

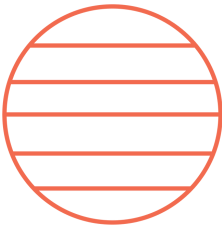
Faithful Presence



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.

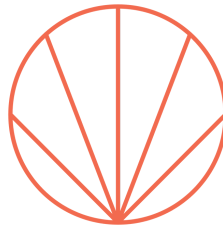
Formative Rhythms



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

Andrew Peterson, The God of the Garden

Trees need to be still in order to grow. We need to be still in order to see that God's work in us and around us is often slow and quiet, patient and steady.

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Church of England

When I pray, coincidences happen; when I stop praying, the coincidences stop happening.

N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone

We cannot stress too strongly, or too often, that the 'theology' which Paul worked out in his various letters was not the product of someone sitting at a desk and working out a jigsaw of abstract concepts – though his concepts and doctrines do fit together remarkably well. They were the result of someone struggling with the huge questions of what God is doing right now in the midst of a turbulent world where many different answers to that question were on offer. Paul clung to the sheet-anchor: the God he had worshipped from boyhood, the God whose glory he had seen in the face of Jesus Christ, was faithful to his promises, and would go on being faithful to those who kept faith with him, even if he often seemed to have surprising ways of showing it.

Willie James Jennings, Acts: A Theological Commentary

"Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome" (v. 11). This is an extraordinary moment through which Luke narrates the intimacy of life with God for Paul. Jesus encourages Paul. This is what Jesus does. He encourages us in the midst of struggle and especially at what seems like the beginning of an intensification of suffering. The words of Jesus point to Paul's destiny, to bear witness. His life is in Paul's life, and Paul's life is in his life. God takes bodies and places with absolute seriousness. Paul's body in Jerusalem and then in Rome—this is the divine desire for us to be where witness must be given and for God to be with us in the giving of that witness in difficult places. This intimacy will be the engine that drives everything Paul will say and do now.

Call to Worship

Psalm 134 NRSV

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!

**Lift up your hands to the holy place,
and bless the Lord.**

May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Songs of Praise

Rising Sun

Praise him all you sinners; sing, oh sing you weary!
Oh, praise him all you children of God!
We lift high his glory; shown throughout our stories.
We praise him as the children of God!

Our great Redeemer, glorious Savior;
your name is higher than the rising sun!
Light of the morning, you shine forever;
your name is higher than the rising sun!
Your name is higher than the rising sun!

Praise his name forever; speak it loud and clear now!
Oh, praise him all you children of God!

Hallelujah! Name above all,
simply to speak your name is praise!
Hallelujah! Now and always,
forever we lift your name in praise!
Hallelujah! Our God you reign,
simply to speak Your name is praise!

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Kyle Lee, and David Leonard
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Great Is Your Glory

God came down and gave His life for me, amen, amen.
Through flesh and blood He fought for victory, amen, amen.
Crucified, brought back to life, amen, amen.
Seated at the Father's hand again, amen, amen.

Great is the glory of the Lord Almighty.
Great is the glory of the Lord.
I will sing with all my heart unto the Lord Almighty.
Great is Your glory, Lord.

Crimson covered over sinless hands, amen, amen.
But nails could never hold the Son of Man, amen, amen.
Now the Father's love flows down on us, amen, amen.
Hallelujah, He will come again, amen amen.

You are the One who was,
You are the One who is,
You are the One who is to come.

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New Testament Reading

Acts 23:1-11 NRSV

1 While Paul was looking intently at the council he said, “Brothers, up to this day I have lived my life with a clear conscience before God.” 2 Then the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near him to strike him on the mouth. 3 At this Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting there to judge me according to the law, and yet in violation of the law you order me to be struck?” 4 Those standing nearby said, “Do you dare to insult God’s high priest?” 5 And Paul said, “I did not realize, brothers, that he was high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a leader of your people.’”

6 When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees, he called out in the council, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead.” 7 When he said this, a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.) 9 Then a great clamor arose, and certain scribes of the Pharisees’ group stood up and contended, “We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?” 10 When the dissension became violent, the tribune, fearing that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered the soldiers to go down, take him by force, and bring him into the barracks.

11 That night the Lord stood near him and said, “Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.”

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

Gracious Father, you have blessed us with gifts beyond measure.
Teach us to be generous with everything we have. What you've given
us, we surrender to you. We long to see your kingdom come on earth
as it is in heaven. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

Acts 23:12-35 NRSV

12 In the morning the Jews joined in a conspiracy and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 13 There were more than forty who joined in this conspiracy. 14 They went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food until we have killed Paul. 15 Now then, you and the council must notify the tribune to bring him down to you, on the pretext that you want to make a more thorough examination of his case. And we are ready to do away with him before he arrives.”

16 Now the son of Paul’s sister heard about the ambush; so he went and gained entrance to the barracks and told Paul. 17 Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to report to him.” 18 So he took him, brought him to the tribune, and said, “The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you; he has something to tell you.” 19 The tribune took him by the hand, drew him aside privately, and asked, “What is it that you have to report to me?” 20 He answered, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more thoroughly into his case. 21 But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him. They have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they kill him. They are ready now and are waiting for your consent.” 22 So the tribune dismissed the young man, ordering him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of this.”

23 Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, “Get ready to leave by nine o’clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. 24 Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and take him safely to Felix the governor.” 25 He wrote a letter to this effect: 26 “Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. 27 This man was seized by the Jews and

was about to be killed by them, but when I had learned that he was a Roman citizen, I came with the guard and rescued him. 28 Since I wanted to know the charge for which they accused him, I had him brought to their council.

29 I found that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but was charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. 30 When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.”

31 So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him during the night to Antipatris. 32 The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. 33 When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. 34 On reading the letter, he asked what province he belonged to, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, 35 he said, “I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.” Then he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod’s headquarters.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: Be of Good Cheer!

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

Notes

Application Questions

1. Where are you feeling IT right now?
2. Read the quote by Willie James Jennings. As we look to Christ, how is witness a natural outflow of suffering?
3. How can intimacy with God change your experience of whatever IT is?

Confession of Sin

Holy Father, forgive us. Our shortcomings accuse us, and we kneel before you, asking you to heal and renew us by your mercy and grace. We confess our worship of idols in the place of you. We confess our self-righteousness and our self-serving actions. We confess our lack of trust in your power. Holy Father, forgive us. We long to dwell in your abiding love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 130:7-8 NRSV

Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

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.

Only Jesus

I bless you for that wondrous moment
when first I looked upon your cross.
Your wrath appeased, my sins forgiven,
death destroyed and my soul's redemption won.

Let my cry always be, "Only Jesus!"
Let my cry always be, "Only Jesus!"

Since that day you have been faithful;
your mercies daily are renewed.
Your Spirit strengthens and preserves me.
Though storms will rage, still I know you guard my life.

I have no other rock to stand on
than Christ who pulled me from the fire.
And now I wait with hopeful longing
for the day when he'll return to claim his bride.

Only Jesus

Only Jesus

Only Jesus

Words & Music by Rebecca Elliot and Brooks Ritter

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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.

Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)

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

Be still my soul; thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy 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.

In You I rest; in You I found my hope.
In You I trust; You never let me go.
I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still my soul.

Be still my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone.
Sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys re-stored.
Be still my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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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.

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 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/#weekly

Morning Prayer

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

Social Hour

Join us after the service on July 16th for coffee, donuts, and conversation.

Summer Reading Groups

Reading groups are in full swing and you can jump in at any time! Check out the options at oaksparish.org/summerreading

Cannon Beach Day

Join us at Cannon Beach on Saturday, July 15th! We'll setup on the beach by the Wayfarer Restaurant between 11am-4pm. Bring your own beach gear, snacks, drinks, and other beach essentials. All are invited for dinner at Public Coast Brewery at 4pm. Questions? Email communitylife@oaksparish.org.

Potluck with the Robbins Family

Daniel and Bethany Robbins and family, our missional partners in Malawi, will join us for worship on Sunday, July 23rd! After the service we'll hear updates on their work during a potluck. Bring a dish to share (main and side dishes are needed).

Family Promise Appreciation

We're compiling notes of appreciation for the hard work of the Family Promise staff. Submit a note of gratitude and encouragement at oaksparish.org/family-promise

Theology on Tap

How do we use our theological framework to engage current social issues? Join the discussion, led by Bryan Buck and Sean Jackson, every Sunday at 7pm, from July 9th through August 30th, at Horse Brass Pub. Sign up for the weekly readings at oaksparish.org/summerreading.