

Ordinary Time



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

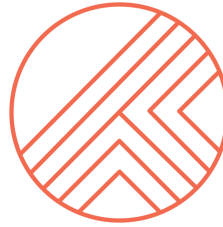
Gospel of Grace



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.

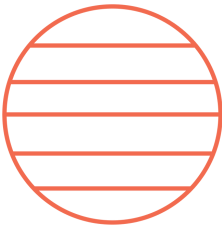
Faithful Presence



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.

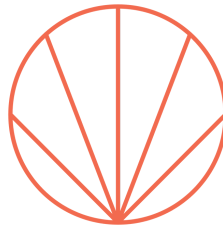
Formative Rhythms



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

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Vol 1*

Power is everywhere; not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere.

Tim Keller, "Justice in the Bible"

You cannot do justice without recognizing how power has been used to exploit and abuse, but you also cannot do justice without exerting power yourself. The gospel shows us a Savior who does indeed exercise authority over us, but who uses that authority and power only to serve us, and who was willing to lose it and suffer in order to save us. Christians have intellectual and heart resources to use power in a way that does not exploit. We must never stop struggling to walk in our Savior's steps.

Willie James Jennings, *Acts: A Theological Commentary*

The dream of each nation-state, each tribal-nation, and each corporation is eternality. All form their actions and their politics to enact their permanence. We know, however, that the eternity they seek is only possible in the body of Jesus. From within his body and through the Holy Spirit we live already within God's eternal reign and within the eternal life given to the children of the living God. There and only there may a people find what no political maneuvering can achieve—life everlasting....So while some work for the welfare of the empire, we work in empires for the welfare of God's creation. Christians can easily get this confused by forgetting that the ends of an empire are not our ends, its dream not our dream, and its circle of concern always smaller than our concerns. Our citizenship should be characterized by an urgency not born of the needs of the nation, but the witness of God's redeeming love.

Call to Worship

Psalm 139 NRSV

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

**You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

**Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?**

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**Even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

Songs of Praise

Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious, and unknown,
Your boundless love,
unfailing grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
around Your glorious throne,
they raise their voices day and night
in praise to You alone.

Hallelujah, glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah, glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail,
helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels,
hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy,
his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
before our sov'reign God.

Let ev'ry creature in the sea,
and ev'ry flying bird;
let ev'ry mountain,
ev'ry field and valley of the earth.
Let all the moons and all the stars
in all the universe,
sing praises to the living God
who rules them by His Word.

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all!

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New Testament Reading

Acts 25:1-12 NRSV

1 Three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem 2 where the chief priests and the leaders of the Jews gave him a report against Paul. They appealed to him 3 and requested, as a favor to them against Paul, to have him transferred to Jerusalem. They were, in fact, planning an ambush to kill him along the way. 4 Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea, and that he himself intended to go there shortly. 5 “So,” he said, “let those of you who have the authority come down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them accuse him.”

6 After he had stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea; the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. 7 When he arrived, the Jews who had gone down from Jerusalem surrounded him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. 8 Paul said in his defense, “I have in no way committed an offense against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against the emperor.” 9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, asked Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and be tried there before me on these charges?” 10 Paul said, “I am appealing to the emperor’s tribunal; this is where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you very well know. 11 Now if I am in the wrong and have committed something for which I deserve to die, I am not trying to escape death; but if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can turn me over to them. I appeal to the emperor.” 12 Then Festus, after he had conferred with his council, replied, “You have appealed to the emperor; to the emperor you will go.”

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 25:13-27 NRSV

13 After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus. 14 Since they were staying there several days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man here who was left in prison by Felix. 15 When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me about him and asked for a sentence against him. 16 I told them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had met the accusers face to face and had been given an opportunity to make a defense against the charge. 17 So when they met here, I lost no time, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. 18 When the accusers stood up, they did not charge him with any of the crimes that I was expecting. 19 Instead they had certain points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. 20 Since I was at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wished to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on these charges. 21 But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of his Imperial Majesty, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to the emperor." 22 Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," he said, "you will hear him."

23 So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then Festus gave the order and Paul was brought in. 24 And Festus said, "King Agrippa and all here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish community petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. 25 But I found that he had done nothing deserving death; and when he appealed to his Imperial Majesty, I decided to send him. 26 But I have nothing definite to write to our sovereign about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write— 27 for it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner without indicating the charges against him."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: How Do We Use Power?

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

Notes

Application Questions

1. How do the characters in Acts 25 clarify the nature of power?
2. What can we learn from Paul's relationship with power?
3. How is God speaking to you about your own use of power?

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.

Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon, this I see;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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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.

Song of Reflection

The Meal We Could Not Make

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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

Thanks for joining us today - we would love to connect with you! Jot down your name and email address on the postcard found in your worship guide and drop it in an offering basket before you leave so we can get to know you.

How to Use Postcards

The OP postcard found in your worship guide can be used to:

- Let us know you're visiting
- Sign up for the weekly email
- Share a prayer request
- RSVP for an event
- Connect with pastoral staff

Drop your postcard in an offering basket before you leave today!

Download the OP App

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

Listen to the OP Podcast

Catch up on all the latest Oaks Parish sermons on our podcast! Search "Oaks Parish" on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Morning Prayer

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

Sunday Potluck

Mark your calendar for another Sunday potluck on August 13th, after the service in the fellowship hall. The Community Life team is providing pasta, dessert, and snacks. Please bring a pasta sauce or side dish to share.

Lost Lake Day

Join us for a summer getaway to Lost Lake on Saturday, August 19th! We'll be hanging out on the north side of the lake, starting around 10:30-11am. Bring your own food and lake day necessities and we'll enjoy the water and summer weather together!