

Ordinary Time



*oaks parish*

## Our Mission

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

## Our Core Values

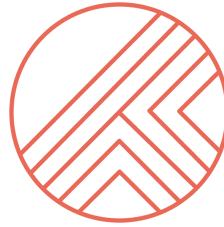
### Gospel of Grace



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.

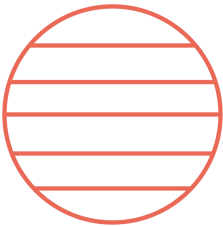
### Faithful Presence



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.

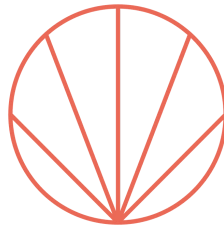
### Formative Rhythms



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

### C.S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*

For now that I am myself I can remember that enchanted life, though while I was enchanted I could not remember my true self.

### Rodney Stark, *Cities of God*

At the time Christianity arose, he said, “Men were looking in certain directions and couched their religious aspirations and beliefs in certain terms. Christianity spoke the language which they understood and set its theology and its ritual in the forms which to its own generation seemed natural[;]...the Gospel [could not] have won its way if it had not found an echo in the religious searchings and even the religious beliefs of the time.”

### Willie James Jennings, *Acts: A Theological Commentary*

Jesus has placed his life inside Paul, and what now unfolds for Paul is his life within the life of Christ Jesus. Paul offers a radical becoming, one that speaks a future that King Agrippa cannot see trapped as he is within the mechanisms of Roman assimilation. He cannot and will not imagine a new identity (worth having) witnessed by Paul, and so the only response is the common response that reaches through time to our present. They all rose to their feet and left. There is nothing here they want.

## Call to Worship

### *Psalm 140 NRSV*

Deliver me, O Lord, from evildoers;  
protect me from those who are violent,  
who plan evil things in their minds  
and stir up wars continually.

**I say to the Lord, “You are my God;  
give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my supplications.”**

O Lord, my Lord, my strong deliverer,  
you have covered my head in the day of battle.

**Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of the wicked;  
do not further their evil plot.**

I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy  
and executes justice for the poor.

**Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;  
the upright shall live in your presence.**

## 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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## Come Ye Sinners (I Will Arise)

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
full of pity love and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus;  
He will embrace me in his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
o, there are ten thousand charms.

Come ye thirsty, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
true belief and true repentance,  
every grace that brings you life.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,  
lost and ruined by the fall;  
if you tarry 'til you're better,  
you will never come at all.

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## New Testament Reading

### Acts 26:1-18 NRSV

1 Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself: 2 “I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, 3 because you are especially familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg of you to listen to me patiently. 4 “All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. 5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, 7 a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews! 8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? 9 “Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. 11 By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. 12 “With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. 14 When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.’ 15 I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The Lord answered, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. 17 I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

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 26:19-32 NRSV

19 “After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. 21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: 23 that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

24 While he was making this defense, Festus exclaimed, “You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!” 25 But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober truth. 26 Indeed the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am certain that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” 28 Agrippa said to Paul, “Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?” 29 Paul replied, “Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

30 Then the king got up, and with him the governor and Bernice and those who had been seated with them; 31 and as they were leaving, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” 32 Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to the emperor.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Bryan Buck: Paul Before Agrippa

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

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## Notes

### Application Questions

1. In appearing before Agrippa, why does Paul chose testimony rather than defense and how can this shape how we talk with others about Jesus?
2. Why can it be said that the resurrection of the dead, a reality only true in Jesus, is the hope of all humanity?
3. How might apathy be a barrier to embracing a new identity in Christ Jesus?

## 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.

## Here is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
loving kindness as the flood.  
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,  
shed for us his precious blood.  
Who his love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing his praise?  
He will never be forgotten  
throughout heav'ns eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,  
fountains opened deep and wide,  
through the floodgates of God's mercy,  
flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love like mighty rivers,  
poured incessant from above.  
Heaven's peace and perfect justice  
kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting,  
love Thee, ever all my days.  
Let me seek Thy kingdom only  
and my life be to Thy praise,  
Thou alone shall be my glory,  
nothing in the world I see.  
Thou has cleansed and sanctified me;  
thou Thyself hast set me free.

Words and Music William Rees, William Williams (19th c.);  
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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 Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night.  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance now and always.  
Thou and Thou only be first in my heart.  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun.  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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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

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!

## 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](http://oaksparish.org/morningprayer).

## Potluck Today!

Join us after today's service for a potluck in the fellowship hall!

## Lost Lake Day

This Saturday, August 19th, we'll be hanging out at Lost Lake, starting around 10:30am! Meet us on the north side of the lake. Bring your own food and lake day necessities.

## Golf Night @ Stone Creek

Don't miss the final OP golf night on August 24th at Stone Creek. Tee times start at 5:30pm. RSVP to [communitylife@oaksparish.org](mailto:communitylife@oaksparish.org) by August 16th.

## Sign Up for Discipleship Group

Our discipleship groups launch in September! Men's and women's discipleship groups are where community is strengthened and time is spent intentionally abiding with Christ. Sign up today at [oaksparish.org/discipleship](http://oaksparish.org/discipleship)!

## Encounter Worship Night

Join neighboring churches as we lift our voices in prayer and worship and encounter and goodness and love of God. This month's Encounter worship night will be hosted by the Genesis Project (3132 SE 67th) on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7pm.