

Ordinary Time



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

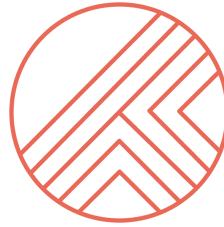
Gospel of Grace



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.

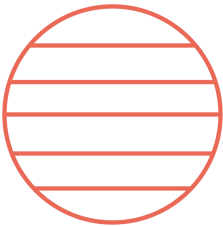
Faithful Presence



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.

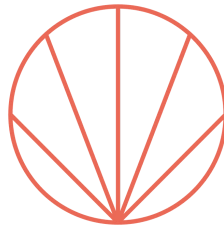
Formative Rhythms



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

Teresa of Avila, Interior Castle

By God's goodness I am, and always shall be, faithful to the Church, as I have been in the past. May He be for ever blessed and glorified. Amen.

Ben Witherington III, Acts: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary

Luke's main concern is to leave the reader a reminder about the unstoppable word of God, which no obstacle — not shipwreck, not poisonous snakes, not Roman authorities — could hinder from reaching the heart of the Empire, and the hearts of those who dwelled there. It was a universal message that was proclaimed, and yet it was from the start of Acts to its conclusion the same story over and over again about the coming of the kingdom and of Jesus (cf. Acts 1:6-8 and 28:31). It was a message that asserted that God in the end was sovereign, and that God was faithful to both his word and his people. It is this same message and mission that galvanizes the church today, giving it its marching orders and calling us to emulate the behavior of those like Paul who spoke boldly and freely, believing no external obstacle was too great for the God who raised Jesus to overcome in saving the world.

N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone

Jesus of Nazareth, Messiah and Lord: through his servants, through their journeys and their trials, through their pains and their puzzles and their sufferings and their shipwrecks, still reaching out into the future, out beyond Rome and the first century, out across the tracts of time and geography, still confronting men, women and children, rulers, disabled people, local authorities, artisans, governors of islands, wandering tent-makers, philosophers in the market-place, and young men nodding off on windowsills. Luke has brought them all before us, in a dazzling display both of writing and of theology, drawing us in, reminding us once more that this is a drama in which we ourselves have been called to belong to the cast. The journey is ours, the trials and vindications are ours, the sovereign presence of Jesus is ours, the story is ours to pick up and carry on. Luke's writing, like Paul's journey, has reached its end, but in his end is our beginning.

Call to Worship

Psalm 143 NRSV

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.

**For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground.**

I remember the days of old;
I think about all your deeds;
I meditate on the works of your hands.

**I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.

**Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

Songs of Praise

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to take Him at His word.
Just to rest upon His promise
and to know thus says the Lord.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
precious Jesus, Savior, friend.
And I know that He is with me,
will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
how I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,
O, for grace to trust Him more!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease.
And from Jesus simply taking,
life and rest and joy and peace.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
how I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,
O, for grace to trust Him more!

Words and Music © Public Domain
CCLI License # 11355776

Psalm 139

Search my heart and know me,
you see my every thought.
You've gone behind, before me,
to form my inward parts.
Where can I go from your love?
How can I flee from you?
In wonder or in crisis,
your hands will lead me through.

Majesty, my soul sings
a psalm of who you are.
Though darkness falls around me,
I'm safe within Your arms.

How precious are your thoughts, Lord;
how great the sum of them.
If I could stand to count them,
they'd number more than sand.

If I ride on the wings of the morning,
if I dwell in the depths of the sea.
Even there your hands will lead me,
and there your right hand will hold me.

Words & Music by Emily Wilkinson © 2019
CCLI License # 11355776

New Testament Reading

Acts 28:1-16 NRSV

1 After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it. 3 Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire, when a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "This man must be a murderer; though he has escaped from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." 5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 They were expecting him to swell up or drop dead, but after they had waited a long time and saw that nothing unusual had happened to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god. 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 8 It so happened that the father of Publius lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him. 9 After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. 10 They bestowed many honors on us, and when we were about to sail, they put on board all the provisions we needed. 11 Three months later we set sail on a ship that had wintered at the island, an Alexandrian ship with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead. 12 We put in at Syracuse and stayed there for three days; 13 then we weighed anchor and came to Rhegium. After one day there a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. 14 There we found believers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. 15 The believers from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. 16 When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

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.

Story of Grace: Discipleship Groups

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

Acts 28:17-31 NRSV

17 Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. 18 When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. 19 But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—even though I had no charge to bring against my nation. 20 For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.” 21 They replied, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken anything evil about you. 22 But we would like to hear from you what you think, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.”

23 After they had set a day to meet with him, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. 25 So they disagreed with each other; and as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement:

“The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, 26 ‘Go to this people and say, You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. 27 For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.’ 28 Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.” 30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: With All Boldness and Without Hindrance
Acts of the Apostles: Witness to the Ends of the Earth

Notes

Application Questions

1. How does the ending of Acts give you hope for the church?
2. How was Teresa of Avila able to be a critic of the church while being faithful to the church?
3. As you look back over our year-long series in Acts, what are your big takeaways?

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.

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,
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 myst'ry,
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 myst'ry,
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 myst'ry,
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 and Music Matt Boswell, Matt Papa,
and Michael Bleecker © 2012 Dayspring
Music, LLC, Bleecker Publishing, and
Centricity Music Publishing
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.

Song of Reflection

To The Dawn

There's a light upon the mountains and the day is at the spring,
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King.
Weary was our heart with waiting and the night watch seemed so long,
but the hearts of men are stirring and we hail it with a song.

In the fading of the starlight we can see the coming morn,
and the lights of men are paling in the splendors of the dawn.
For the eastern skies are glowing as with lights of hidden fire,
and the hearts of men are stirring with a longing and desire.

To the dawn, to the morning, to the end of the night,
all who walk in the dark have seen a Great Light.
It's the dawn, it's the morning, it's the end of the night,
and the hearts of men are stirring.

He is breaking down the barriers, He is casting up the way,
He is calling for His people to build up the gates of day.
Oh, we hear a distant music and it comes with fuller swell;
it's the triumph song of Jesus, Lord Emmanuel.

There's a hush of expectation and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer.
For the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,
and the hearts of men are stirring to know they're not alone.

Words & Music by Sara Groves and Henry Burton
© 2017 Abide With Me 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

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

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!

Back to School Shopping for Family Promise

Support the kiddos at Family Promise of Metro East with donations of new (or very gently used) clothing or gift cards for back-to-school shopping!

Find all the details on what's needed (including clothing types, sizes, and gift card options) and where you can drop it off at oaksparish.org/family-promise.

Membership Gathering

If you've attended Newcomers Gathering and are looking to learn more about membership at Oaks Parish, join us for Membership Gathering on September 10th after the service! We'll discuss the significance of membership at Oaks Parish, and answer all of your questions. Lunch will be provided, so please email martha@oaksparish.org to RSVP.