

Ordinary Time



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

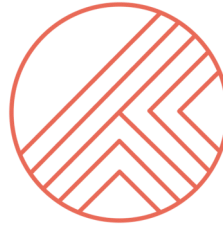
Gospel of Grace



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.

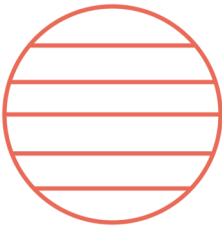
Faithful Presence



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.

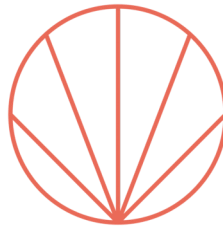
Formative Rhythms



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 Weight of Glory*

Like a good chess player, Satan is always trying to maneuver you into a position where you can save your castle only by losing your bishop.

Richard D. Phillips, *1 Samuel (The Reformed Expository Commentary)*

What is the alternative to power religion? It is the religion of the Bible, which Martin Luther summarized as the “theology of the cross.” Biblical religion is not a series of techniques for manipulating God’s goodwill or harnessing God’s power. Rather, it is a humble appeal for God’s mercy and grace, which he has offered through the priestly ministry of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Dane Ortland, *Deeper*

When pain washes into our lives, we immediately, instinctively feel as if we are losing. Something is happening in the debit category. We are going backward. This is bad, we think. Understandably so. In the economy of the gospel, however, we are united to a Savior who was himself arrested, crucified, put in a grave, and left for dead, only to rise in a triumphant glory not possible apart from that death. Pain seeds glory.

Call to Worship

from Psalm 8 NRSV

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

**Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Songs of Praise

Psalm 126

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell
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Psalm 3 (A Shield About Me)

Words and Music by Robbie Seay
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New Testament Reading

Mark 12:35-44 NRSV

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? 36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.” 37 David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

38 As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

This morning we baptize Lydia Gail Baker as a child of God's covenant.

Offering Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 4:1-22 NRSV

1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. In those days the Philistines mustered for war against Israel, and Israel went out to battle against them; they encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. 2 The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle was joined, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. 3 When the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the Lord put us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, so that he may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." 4 So the people sent to Shiloh, and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. 6 When the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid; for they said, "Gods have come into the camp." They also said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. 8 Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. 9 Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, in order not to become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight."

10 So the Philistines fought; Israel was defeated, and they fled, everyone to his home. There was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. 11 The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

12 A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line, and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with earth upon his head. 13 When he arrived, Eli was sitting upon his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. When the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out. 14 When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, "What is this uproar?" Then the man came quickly and told Eli. 15 Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set, so that he could not see. 16 The man said to Eli, "I have just come from the battle; I fled from the battle today." He said, "How did it go, my son?" 17 The messenger replied, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great slaughter among the troops; your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured." 18 When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

19 Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. When she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth; for her labor pains overwhelmed her. 20 As she was about to die, the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or give heed. 21 She named the child Ichabod, meaning, "The glory has departed from Israel," because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: Victory in Defeat
The Coming of a Kingdom

Notes

Application Questions

1. How has the church sought to weaponize God in socio-political struggles? What were Israel's other options in the face of threat, and what difference would that make?
2. 1 Samuel 4 seems pretty abysmal, but how does it inspire hope?
3. How are you experiencing defeat right now? How can the gospel reshape your understanding of how God might be at work to bring about your salvation?

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have kneeled before other kings, when only your love, justice, and faithfulness can free us, heal us and renew us. Forgive us for placing our faith in humans. In your mercy, through the blood of your Son, free us from our sin and enable us to wait with great hope for your glorious Kingdom to renew all things. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 44:22 NRSV

I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

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.

Mercy's Reign

Words and Music by Paul Ramey & Alex Davis

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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

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.

In Feast or Fallow

Words & Music by Sandra McCracken

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Benediction

Doxology

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
Karen Howells	karen@oaksparish.org	Director of Women's Formation
Martha Van Houten	martha@oaksparish.org	Director of Parish Formation
Alex Wenig	alex@oaksparish.org	Director of Music
OP Kids	kids@oaksparish.org	
Community Life	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

- 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!

Oaks Parish Podcast

New episodes of the Oaks Parish Podcast are released every Monday afternoon. Join Bryan Buck and Martha Van Houten as they dive even deeper into each week's sermon. Subscribe to the podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify (search "Oaks Parish").

Morning Prayer

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

Social Hour

Join us after the service TODAY for coffee, donuts, and conversation in the fellowship hall.

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 November 19th after the service (for lunch)! We'll discuss the significance of membership at Oaks Parish, and answer all of your questions.

Women's Advent Celebration

Oaks Parish women are invited to an Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 3rd from 5-8pm in the fellowship hall! Create a holiday wreath or centerpiece, enjoy festive food and drink, and reflect on an Advent meditation. Please RSVP to karen@oaksparish.org.