

Epiphany



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.

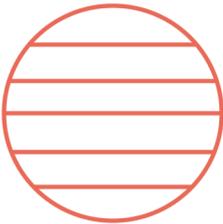
Faithful Presence



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

Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*

Water is a gift of God. Used properly, it gives life. Out of control, it floods, drowns, and destroys. Fire is a gift of God. Out of control, it brings horrible destruction and death. The greater a thing's potential for good when used rightly, the greater its potential for evil when used wrongly. So it is with money—it has vast potential to be used for either good or evil.

Kim King, *When Women Give*

Money is simply a tool. Right? How do we use this tool? There are only three options: We can save. We can spend. We can give. None of these choices is inherently good or bad. What makes money good or bad is its use.

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

If our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc, is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.

Thomas Merton, *The Seven Storrey Mountain*

As the week went on, the house began to fill, and the evening before Holy Thursday there must have been some twenty-five or thirty retreatants in the monastery, men young and old, from all quarters of the country. Half a dozen students had hitch-hiked down from Notre Dame, with glasses and earnest talk about the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. There was a psychiatrist from Chicago who said he came down every Easter, and there were three or four pious men who turned out to be friends and benefactors of the monastery— quiet, rather women personages; they assumed a sort of command over the other guests. They had a right to. They practically lived here in this guest house. In fact, they had a kind of quasi-vocation all their own. They belonged to that special class of men raised up by God to support orphanages and convents and monasteries and build hospitals and feed the poor. On the whole it is a way to sanctity that is sometimes too much despised. It sometimes implies a more than ordinary humility in men who come to think that the monks and nuns they assist are creatures of another world. God will show us at the latter day that many of them were better men than the monks they supported!

Call to Worship

Psalm 57

Be merciful to me, O God, for my soul trusts in you,
and under the shadow of your wings shall be my refuge.

**I will call unto the Most High God,
who shall fulfill his purpose for me.**

He shall send from heaven and save me;
God shall send forth his mercy and truth.

**Exalt yourself, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.**

My heart is firmly fixed, O God; I will sing and give praise.
For the greatness of your mercy reaches unto the heavens,
and your truth unto the clouds.

**Exalt yourself, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.**

Songs of Praise

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I've come.
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor,
daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above.

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above.

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Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King
would welcome me?

I was lost but He brought me in;
oh His love for me.

Oh His love for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed;
I'm a child of God, yes I am!

Free at last He has ransomed me;
His grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin,
Jesus died for me.

Yes, He died for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed;
I'm a child of God, yes I am!

In my Father's house, there's a place for me;
I'm a child of God, yes I am!

I am chosen, not forsaken;
I am who You say I am.

You are for me, not against me;
I am who You say I am.

In my Father's house, there's a place for me;
I'm a child of God, yes I am!

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New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19 NRSV

6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 16 It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

Holy Father, there is nothing I have that You have not given me. To spend everything on myself, and to give without sacrifice, is the way of the world that You cannot abide. But generosity is the way of those who call Christ their Lord; who love Him with free hearts and serve Him with renewed minds. I am determined to be trustworthy with such a little thing as money that You may trust me with true riches. Above all, I am determined to be generous because You, Father, are generous. And so we surrender our tithes and offerings to you, Father, for the glory of your Kingdom. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

Luke 12:13-21 NRSV

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14 But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” 16 Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 18 Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: What is Good Stewardship?
Cheerful Giving

Notes

Application Questions

1. What do you learn about your own heart from the parable of the Rich Fool?
2. Creating a cushion, ditching bad debt, and planning ahead are essential movements that enable generosity. What is God calling you to focus on in this season in order to become a cheerful giver?
3. Looking back at this series, what's your biggest takeaway?

The Beauty of the Heart of Christ

May my life carry the heart of Christ,
Lord, in all I say and all that I do.
Selfless love, lowly in sacrifice;
laying down my pride, nothing to prove.

Now that I have seen, now that I have tasted
of Your mercy and Your love divine,
may my life be full, full of one thing only,
just the beauty of the heart of Christ.
Just the beauty of the heart of Christ.

For the least of these, even my enemies,
who am I to dare, dare to withhold
what I've received, forgiveness and grace so free?
Let Your fire in me never grow cold.

Oh, what a privilege,
oh, what an honor it is,
no greater joy than this,
to carry Your heart, carry Your heart.

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Confession of Sin

Holy Father, we find it difficult to submit our lives to you, yet you call us to surrender our time, talent, and treasure for the purposes of your Kingdom. Forgive our greed and deliver us from all temptations of money. Forgive our wastefulness and show us how to be wise with all of your good gifts. Forgive our desire to expand our own kingdoms and deliver us into your Kingdom that finds joy and freedom in laying down our lives. In your Son's name we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Micah 7:18-19 NRSV

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of his possession? He does not retain his anger forever because he delights in showing steadfast love. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Confession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

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.

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.

Wisdom & Grace

Teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts to Your ways.
O! Teach us to number our days
with wisdom and grace, wisdom and grace.
Wisdom and grace, wisdom and grace.

You've been our home and our dwelling
our place in all generations.
Before the earth or the mountains were formed,
Lord, You were God.

Now the span of our lives,
it is made of sorrow and labor;
as the days pass away like the grass,
how soon we are gone.

Let the work of our hands bring You praise,
set Your favor upon us.
O establish the work of our hands,
may Your kingdom come!

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Benediction

Doxology

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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

- 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!

Morning Prayer

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

Congregational Meeting Today

Members and regular attenders, please attend the winter congregational meeting today, after the service. Our ministry teams will share important updates in the life of our community.

Ash Wednesday 2/14

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season and serves to remind us of our need for reconciliation. Join us for an Ash Wednesday service of prayer and confession on February 14 at 6:30pm.

Evening Prayer During Lent

Lean into the Lenten season with evening prayer every Sunday during Lent (February 18 - March 24) from 7-8:30pm at the home of Nick & Jeannie Sytsma. Email jeannie.vest@my.wheaton.edu for more details and to RSVP.

Lent Resources for Families

The OP Kids Team has put together a resource for families on Observing Lent. Packets with an activity and guide for the season can be picked up in the foyer near the children's check-in kiosk