

Epiphany



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

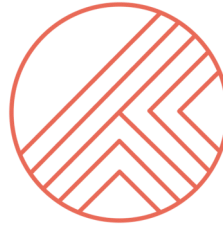
Gospel of Grace



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.

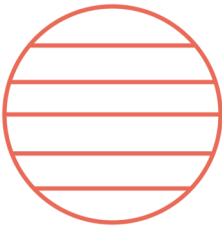
Faithful Presence



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.

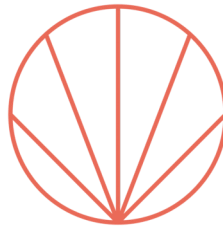
Formative Rhythms



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

The Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible, Malachi

The book may serve as a catechism for times of doubt and disappointment, during which people in the visible church are tempted to disengage from their covenant God. The prophets ministry was to light the lamp of faith in a disheartened people by reminding them of God's electing love and to set forth the continuing obligations of the covenant to those who truly knew God.

Randy Alcorn, Money, Possessions, and Eternity

Parting with money wasn't any easier for the people of Israel than for us. In fact, most of them were far poorer and worked a great deal harder for their money than we do. Yet tithing was so built into their lives that it became "natural" to them in the best sense. In times of national obedience, their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and business partners—everyone around them—practiced tithing. It became a way of life. When they went their own way and stopped tithing and withheld freewill offerings, God told them they were robbing him. Then he invited his people to test him by going back to tithing and giving voluntary offerings. The tithe was a divine invitation to test God's promises to provide (Malachi 3:8-12). Tithing begins as a duty but can become a delight, leading to joyful voluntary giving. For faithful Israelites, unclenching their fists and opening them to God had a thousand trickle-down benefits. Is it any different for us today?

Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies

The Jews were constrained to a regular payment of tithes; Christians, who have liberty, assign all their possessions to the Lord, bestowing freely not the lesser portions of their property, since they have the hope of greater things.

John Cortines & Gregory Baumer, True Riches

We shouldn't give to things because we care about them deeply. Rather, we should give to things because God cares about them deeply. Giving often starts as an obedient step of faith before it blossoms into joyful love over time. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Call to Worship

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

**The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart.**

The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

**The ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold,
sweeter also than honey.

**Let the words of our mouths and the
meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you,
O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.**

Songs of Praise

For the Beauty of the Earth

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Mercy's Reign

Words & Music by Paul Ramey & Alex Davis
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New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 8:1-9 NRSV

1 We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; 2 for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, 4 begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— 5 and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, 6 so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. 7 Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

8 I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

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

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:6-12 NRSV

6 For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. 7 Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?”

8 Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. 11 I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. 12 Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: Does God Need My Money?

Cheerful Giving

Notes

Application Questions

1. Why is giving a tenth of our income so important for our life with God?
2. Have you trusted God in tithing even when it was difficult? If so, what was the result?
3. Take a moment this week to check-in on your tithe. What action do you need to take?

In Feast or Fallow

Words & Music by Sandra McCracken

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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

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.

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

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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

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!

Morning Prayer

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

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship groups are where community is strengthened and time is spent intentionally abiding with Christ. To sign up, please email bryan@oaksparish.org (for men) or karen@oaksparish.org (for women).

Alphabet Potluck 2/4 Today!

Join us for the Alphabet Potluck today, after the service, in the Parish Hall.

Congregational Meeting 2/11

Members and regular attenders, please mark your calendar for our winter congregational meeting on Sunday, February 11th, after the service. Important updates from our ministry teams will be provided.

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.