

Lent



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

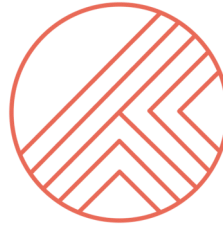
Gospel of Grace



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.

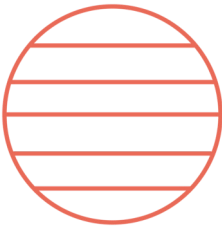
Faithful Presence



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.

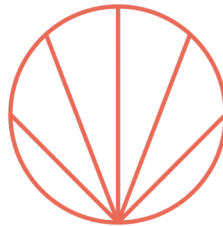
Formative Rhythms



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

Rudyard Kipling, "The Way through the Woods"

They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again.
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods.

J.I. Packer, Rediscovering Holiness

"Holy" is both biblical languages means separated and set apart for God, consecrated and made over to Him. In its application to people, God's "holy ones" or "saints," the word implies both devotion and assimilation: devotion, in the sense of living a life of service to God; assimilation, in the sense of imitating, conforming to, and becoming like the God one serves. For Christians, this means taking God's moral law as our rule and God's incarnate Son as our model; this is where our analysis of holiness must start.

J.C. Ryle, Holiness

Most people hope to go to heaven when they die, but few, it may be feared, take the trouble to consider whether or not they would enjoy heaven if they got there. Heaven is essentially a holy place. Its inhabitants are all holy. Its activities are all holy. To be really happy in heaven, it is clear and plain that we must be somewhat trained and made ready for heaven while we are on earth.

Henri Nouwen, Out of Solitude

Give me eyes to see and ears to hear. I know there is light in the darkness that makes everything new. I know there is a joy beyond sorrow that rejuvenates my heart. Yes, Lord, I know that you are, that you act, that you love, that you indeed are Light, Life, and Truth. People, work, plans, projects, ideas, meetings, buildings, paintings, music, and literature all can only give me real joy and peace when I can see and hear them as reflections of your presence, your glory, your kingdom.

Song of Praise

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.

Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,

who were and are and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,

though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see.

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee.

Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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The Acclamation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Kyrie, Eleison

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Note: The use of the Greek phrase Kyrie Eleison dates back to the New Testament as people asked Jesus for healing. The Kyrie began to appear in church liturgies in the 4th century. While Western churches tend to view it through a penitential lens, asking mercy for our sins, the early church utilized this prayer instead to highlight the beauty and depth of God's mercy as he heals our hurts and provides for our daily needs. It brings us face to face with our compassionate God who hears our prayers.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame.

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the LORD
are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Every Ditch, Every Valley (Isaiah 40)

A voice says “Cry out, all men are like grass
and their time of glory soon shall pass.
But the Word of God, it will never die;
surely it will stand for eternity.”

Every ditch and valley shall be raised up;
every hill and mountain be made low.
Every rugged place will be made flat;
everybody shall see the glory of the LORD.

You who bring good news, raise your voice and shout!
Do not be afraid to speak the name of God.
The hard days are gone, the debt has been paid,
and the time has come to walk the righteous way.

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSV

1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Generous God, in losing our lives we find them in you. In sharing our money and time, we receive the blessings of your Kingdom. Use these gifts toward your holy work of peace, justice, and love in the world. Amen.

Prayer for the Discipleship of Our Children

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 1:13-25 NRSV

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. 14 Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. 15 Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. 22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. 23 You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For “All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,
and the flower falls,

25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: The Aim of the Christian Life
Holiness

Notes

Application Questions

1. How is God's holiness important for our culture today?
2. Peter's exhortation is to live as foreigners with reverent fear. How would that reshape your life?
3. As we begin the season of Lent, where do you sense the need for holiness in your life?

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.

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust His cleansing blood.
And in simple faith to plunge me,
'neath the healing, cleansing flood.

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.

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.

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Confession of Sin

Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight. Create in me a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within me.

from Psalm 51

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5 NRSV

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

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.

This Dust

Lord have mercy on me; I am riddled with the world's disease
of taking what I want and turning it into a need.

I am flesh and blood, never good enough.

You poured out your love to cover o'er this dust.

Oh what endless love, that you would come to join with us
and drink this cursed cup, redeeming all that we've undone.

We are flesh and blood, never good enough.

You poured out your love to cover o'er this dust.

And mercy rains on all our shame
and washes all the stain away.

Death is all around us; we are not afraid.

Written is the story; empty is the grave.

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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.

Social Hour 3/3

Join us for coffee, donuts, and conversation after the service in the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 3rd.

Reflections for Lent

We've created weekly reflections to give you an intentional rhythm of Scripture and prayer in this season. Two reflections will be released each week. You can listen on the Oaks Parish Podcast (on Apple Podcasts or Spotify) or download a PDF at oaksparish.org/lent.

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