

An impressionistic landscape painting featuring a dense forest of green trees in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is filled with soft, blended colors of blue, white, and yellow, suggesting a bright, hazy day. The overall style is painterly and atmospheric.

To Know Christ
and to
Make Christ Known

Everything Matters
Wisdom from Ecclesiastes



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WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH!

VISITING GRACE?

It's great to have you here today, and we'd love to connect with you! Visit graceinracine.com or scan the QR code on the next page to let us know you visited, ask questions, submit prayer requests, or indicate an area of Grace Church that is of interest to you.

Stop by the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary, we'd love to meet you!

If you have something that is weighing you down today, please come down front after service and we will pray with you. You can also share your request on the connection card and our prayer team will lift your need up to the Lord.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

["Psalm 90 \(Satisfy Us With Your Love\)"](#)

PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Matthew Lutz

Call To Worship

[Ephesians 1:3-4a](#)

["10,000 Reasons \(Bless The Lord\)"](#)

["Sovereign Over Us"](#)

RENEWAL

Baptism

Patrick Tetzlaff, Elder

["Christ Is Mine Forevermore"](#)

PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word

[Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6](#)

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

["It Is Well"](#)

Benediction

Pastor Matthew Lutz

*The sanctuary will continue to be used for prayer and reflection following the service. We invite you to come down front if you have a prayer need.
Head to the Commons for fellowship after service.*

CARE MINISTRY

PRAYER FOR HEALING & RECOVERY

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Karen Sytsma

*Due to the size of our church, we're not always aware of every need.
Please help us by sending life updates to care@graceinracine.com.*

CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR) Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Loft. CR is a safe place to find support if you are struggling with a difficult season of life. CR is not just for addicts; it is for all of us who need to go deeper in Christ when life gets hard. Don't struggle alone - please join us for hope and encouragement every Tuesday evening.

Contact Gabe Stalker at celebraterecovery@graceinracine.com

JOURNEY GROUPS FOR WOMEN

Begins September 14th

Meets every other Thursday for 12 weeks at 6:30pm

Journey Groups are communities of care where stories of pain and abuse can be spoken, heard, and redeemed. Journey groups provide opportunities to open your soul to a deeper understanding of your past, to have courage and integrity in current relationships, and to grow in connection with the Author of your story.

Scan the QR code or contact Gayle Manske manskegayle61@gmail.com for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We want to uphold you in prayer during times of need:

- Fill out a connect card online or from the seatback in front of you.
- Come down front after service Sunday morning and we will pray with you.
- Email prayer@graceinracine.com.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

LAST WEEK

Attendance: 545

Giving: \$21,920

2023 GIVING

Year to Date: \$992,008

+/- Budget: -\$94,948

SERMON REVIEW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

Last week, we saw that God's sovereignty over all aspects of all things is something to which we can humbly and even joyfully submit. As we continue in Ecclesiastes this week we will follow the Preacher as he ponders how one is to live or find purpose in a world filled with wickedness, injustice, and oppression. How does God's sovereignty carry over into these aspects of our fallen world and is there any place we can truly find comfort in the midst of suffering in our own lives and those around us?

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of injustices most bother you? Is there a certain group of people or a certain type of situation where you most hate to see evil and oppression? What is it about this kind of wickedness that bothers you and what is most often your response to such injustice?
2. Throughout this passage, the Preacher identifies three things to be "better" (3:22; 4:3; and 4:6). Examine each of these statements and paraphrase these statements in your own words to better understand what the writer of Ecclesiastes is saying in these statements.
3. In these verses, the Preacher, at first glance, seems to be talking about unrelated topics such as: justice and wickedness, humanity vs beasts, oppression, and work: but how does the Preacher draw a correlation between these various thoughts?
4. Where do you most often turn for comfort or contentment? Examine the deception of Eve in Genesis 3:1-6 then examine what James says about how sin comes about in James 1:14-18. How does our desire to fulfill our own comfort and contentment actually contribute to rather than alleviate the wickedness and injustice in the world? What must change in order for increased wickedness to not be the outcome?
5. In what ways did Jesus personally face wickedness, injustice, and oppression? How can knowing that Jesus faced these atrocious evils bring us comfort when faced with corrupt or unfair circumstances?
6. Chapter 4, verse 6 reminds us that contentment with what God has for us is better than chasing after more and more that can never satisfy. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-19, how does Paul's message for Timothy align with what the Preacher is saying in Ecclesiastes 3-4? What are some specific ways you can strive for godly contentment this week?

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

[Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6](#)

Pastor Mike Matheson

IT STILL MATTERS

MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER - INFO SESSION

Learn more about this great opportunity and serve alongside others from Grace!

Saturday, August 26 / 10am-Noon

International Community Center // 4208 S Howell Avenue, Milwaukee (less than 30 mins. from Grace)

Learn more about volunteering with immigrants and refugees on Milwaukee's south side (ESL, Citizenship, tutoring, classroom childcare).

For more information contact:

Joe Kobriger – globalteam@graceinracine.com (262) 939-5152



MISSIONARY CARE MEETING

Saturday, August 26 // 9am // Room A18

Be part of an exciting new ministry to care for our missionaries on and off the field. Use your gifts of encouragement, communication, prayer, hospitality and more to partner with and care for our Grace supported missionaries. Contact Cindi Due for more info: cindidue@me.com.



2023 WALK FOR LIFE



9am-1pm

Fantasy Springs Park
Pavilion #3

[Get started by registering and setting up your fundraising page.](#)

[Begin collecting sponsorships, gather friends and family to join your team, and have fun spreading the word about the important work being done at Alliance. Scan the QR code to learn more.](#)

GRACE HAPPENINGS

WOMEN'S GATHERING

Saturday, August 19th // 10:00 am

Join us as special guest speaker and author, Kristen Wetherell, shares from her newest book, *Help for the Hungry Soul - Eight Encouragements to Grow Your Appetite for God's Word* (release August 2023). This is a fantastic opportunity to invite family and friends to attend along with you to enjoy a time of connection, worship, laughter, and learning! Register and learn more about Kristen Wetherell by scanning the QR code.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE!

November 3 - 5, 2023

Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI

Speaker: Glenna Marshall,

author of "Everyday Faithfulness"

Registration will open August 19th.

AT THE GRACE BOOKSTALL

"Hear Me Now: The Mark of One Ordinary Pastor" by Karen Lynn

Sytsma - a book about Pastor Jerry Worsham's influence and the marks he made on ordinary people for God's kingdom and glory.

Stop by to purchase a copy.

All proceeds donated to South America Mission (SAM).

SAVE-THE-DATE

Coming up at Grace

September 10..... Worshipers In Training (WIT) Resumes

September 10..... Fall Classes Begin

September 13..... IG-Nite & Blaze Resume

October 14..... Men's Breakfast

October 21 Membership Class



Scan here for all of the Worship Guide links!