

First Reading

*Ecclesiastes 3,1-8*

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes**

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven: a  
time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted:  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down and a time to build up;  
a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to rend, and a time to sow;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

**The Word of the Lord.**