**A1**

**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 throw 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 throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

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.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task

which God has appointed for men to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time,

and has put the timeless into their hearts,

without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end,

the work which God had done.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11