

**A reading from Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1 through 8. You can find this reading on page 554 of your pew Bible.**

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 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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

**Please join me in praying Psalm 88.**

Leader: Lord, you are the God who saves me;  
day and night I cry out to you.

**People: May my prayer come before you;  
turn your ear to my cry.**

Leader: I am overwhelmed with troubles  
and my life draws near to death.

**People: I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
I am like one without strength.**

Leader: I am set apart with the dead,  
like the slain who lie in the grave,

**People: whom you remember no more,  
who are cut off from your care.**

Leader: You have put me in the lowest pit,  
in the darkest depths.

**People: Your wrath lies heavily on me;  
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.**

Leader: You have taken from me friend and neighbor—

**People: darkness is my closest friend.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it  
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***