A reading from the book of Genesis.

26 God said,
‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’

27 God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’

31 God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.

The word of the Lord.