

A Dramatized Version of the Reading from the Prophet Joel for Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18 *simplified* (JB)

Reader 1
Reader 2
Reader 3
God

Reader 1 A reading from the prophet Joel.

God Now, now . . .

Reader 2 It is the Lord who speaks!

God Come back to me with all your heart,
[getting quieter and slower . . .]
fasting,
weeping,
mourning.

Reader 3 Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn,

Reader 1 turn to the Lord your God again,

Reader 2 for he is all tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger,
rich in graciousness,
and ready to relent.

Reader 3 Sound the trumpet in Zion!

Reader 1 Order a fast!

Reader 2 Proclaim a solemn assembly!

Reader 3 Call the people together!

Reader 1 Summon the community!

Reader 2 Assemble the elders!

Reader 3 Gather the children, even the infants at the breast!

Reader 1 Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom
and the bride her alcove.

Reader 2 Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,
lament.

Let them say . . .

Readers 1 + 3 Spare your people, Lord!

Reader 2 Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land . . .

God *[God steps forward and pauses before speaking, as though
thinking about this]*

. . . took pity on his people.

Reader 1 The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**