**Ash Wednesday**

**March 2, 2022**

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

**2**Blow the trumpet in Zion,  
And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;  
For the day of the Lord is coming,

For it is at hand:  
**2**A day of darkness and gloominess,  
A day of clouds and thick darkness,  
Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains.  
A people *come,* great and strong,  
The like of whom has never been;  
Nor will there ever be any *such* after them,  
Even for many successive generations.

**12**“Now, therefore,” says the Lord,  
“Turn to Me with all your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”  
**13**So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
Return to the Lord your God,  
For He *is* gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;  
And He relents from doing harm.  
**14**Who knows *if* He will turn and relent,  
And leave a blessing behind Him—  
A grain offering and a drink offering  
For the Lord your God?

**15**Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;  
**16**Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation,  
Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes;  
Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber,  
And the bride from her dressing room.  
**17**Let the priests, who minister to the Lord,  
Weep between the porch and the altar;  
Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord,  
And do not give Your heritage to reproach,  
That the nations should ]rule over them.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
‘Where *is* their God?’ ”

**2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6:10**

…we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. **21**For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**6**We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. **2**For He says:

“In an acceptable time I have heard you,  
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

**3**We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. **4**But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, **5**in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; **6**by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, **7**by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, **8**by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true; **9**as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed; **10**as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

**St. Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

6 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. 5“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.