# Reading Ahead of October 11 Service

## Series Vision:

There is so much chaos and calamity happening in the world around us: The pandemic and the isolation that social distancing has caused in our lives, the fires in our backyard, the yelling going on amidst the media and political climate, and so much more. In a season like this, it's important for us to acknowledge some of the challenges we have in our souls. It is also important for us to understand and believe that God knows what time it is, and He has made us for this time. Those that followed Jesus likewise found themselves in chaotic times, beginning with Jesus' death and resurrection. In the book of Acts, we'll see how God used that chaos to mold the apostles into the world changers they were always meant to be. God wants to do the same with us today.

We want to encourage everyone to invite Holy Spirit's presence to meet you right where you are as you sit in this week's passage before Pastor John shares what he feels is God's heart for our church family this Sunday. As you engage with Holy Spirit in this passage, be asking this question - "Holy Spirit, what is one word or phrase from this passage that you want to impress on my heart for this week? Then, when you're ready, jump into the passage.

## Acts 2:1-41

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly
a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole
house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire
that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with
the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5
Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under
heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment,
because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed,
they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that
each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites;
residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia
and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11
(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them
declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed,
they asked one another, “What does this mean?” 13 Some, however, made fun of
them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the
crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to
you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose.
It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

> *17 “‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your
> sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your
> old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and
> women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I
> will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,
> blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

## Acts 2:1-41 Cont.

*20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

*22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:*

*"'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

*29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,"'The Lord said to my Lord:*

## Acts 2:1-41 Cont.

> *"Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"*

> *36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."*

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

## Other Questions to Consider after Reading

- What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today/this week relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
- What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

## Notes