



## **Pentecost 11 – “Campout Devotion”**

**August 19, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Rev. Todd Goldschmidt, Pastor**

**Theme: See in Jesus God’s Glory, Grace and Truth!**

### **Sermon Text: John 1:1-14 - The Word Became Flesh**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sup>[a]</sup> it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

---

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 A.M. (Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9 am)**

7305 208<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98053

(425) 868-9404 - [www.lhlc.org](http://www.lhlc.org), [pastortodd@lhlc.org](mailto:pastortodd@lhlc.org)



What a blessing it is to gather on this gorgeous summer evening on this beautiful campus the Lord has gifted us with to celebrate His goodness and His amazing grace toward us in Christ Jesus! Pitching horseshoes, tossing water balloons, enjoying great food and fellowship as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Can it get any better than this? Only if the Sounders defeat Minnesota United in their soccer match tomorrow night like the Seahawks beat the Minnesota Vikings last night! Seriously, we're truly blessed. Sadly, we often take God's blessings for granted.

We do live in arguably one of the most astounding places in the country, if not the world. The "mountain has been out" nearly every day this summer, except for the "B.C. haze" that choked the region for several days and had me thinking that what we endured briefly was what the folks in L.A deal with daily. Ringed by snow-capped peaks on every side, the waters of Puget Sound glimmering in the sunshine and evergreen forests at every turn, it's nearly impossible to beat the majestic splendor of this part of the planet. Recreational opportunities abound: hiking and biking, fishing and hunting, water sports and, yes, camping in our own backyard! Top it all off with an economy that's booming and it's no wonder that we live in the fastest growing metropolitan area of the United States of America.

But's there's a dark under-belly here, as well. Opioid addiction is epidemic. Affordable housing is nearly non-existent. And many of the people that are flocking to our shores hail from lands where the worship of the one true God is rare. Add to that the fact that this region is reportedly the most un-churched spot in our nation, and we're left to wonder whether this really is such a great place for Christians like us to make our home. There's no disputing the fact that being members of a confessional, orthodox Lutheran church in the Pacific Northwest is a challenge. How are we supposed to live our faith, let our light shine and serve as "the salt of the earth" that Jesus has made us to be and called us to be under such trying circumstances? Well, there's only one remedy, isn't there? It's Jesus.

The times in which He walked the earth were very much like the times we live in today. Even His own countrymen were steeped in false religion and had a twisted perspective on their place in God's kingdom and misguided notions about the role of God's "Anointed One" because of centuries of false teaching at the hands of worldly-minded rabbis. That's what made John the Baptist stand out from the crowd of spiritual leaders. He wasn't like them. He was different. In fact, you might even say he was eccentric. He lived in the wilderness. He wore a camel-hair cloak. He ate locusts and wild honey. But what set him apart even more was the message he preached! John writes of him: **"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a**

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 A.M. (Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9 am)**

7305 208<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98053

(425) 868-9404 - [www.lhlc.org](http://www.lhlc.org), [pastortodd@lhlc.org](mailto:pastortodd@lhlc.org)



**witness to the light.”** The prophet Isaiah predicted John’s coming as the forerunner of the Christ. He was **“the voice of one crying in the wilderness,”** **“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him”** (40:3; cf. Matt. 3:3).

Roman soldiers, Jewish shepherds, temple priests, housewives, fishermen and farmers flocked to the banks of the Jordan River where John was preaching and baptizing in his efforts to fulfill the role the Lord had assigned to him: to get the hearts of His people ready for the arrival of the long-promised Savior of mankind.

John testified about Jesus, **“He must become greater; I must become less”** (John 3:30). And yet, after John was beheaded by wicked King Herod because he’d publicly chastised him for committing adultery, Jesus said of him: **“I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he”** (Luke 7:28). What did Jesus mean by that? John was great, because his mission was great. God commissioned him to point the children of Israel to Jesus—as he did beside the Jordan River—and proclaim, **“Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”** (John 1:29).

That imagery would’ve struck John’s hearers—especially the remnant of true believers—as a reference to Passover. In that annual feast, they were to sacrifice a yearling lamb—the best lamb they had—and recall that on the first Passover in Egypt, God ordered His captive people to do the same, and spread the lamb’s blood around the doorframes of their houses, trusting that by doing so, the Lord would “pass over” their homes and spare their firstborn from death. So, when John signaled that Jesus was the fulfillment of that image, he hoped that his hearers would turn to Jesus in faith and follow Him as their Savior from sin and as the Lord of their life. That’s what Jesus meant when He said that despite John the Baptist’s stature as the greatest human being who ever trod on the soil of this fallen world, **“the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”**

Which brings us full-circle! We’re among the **“least in the kingdom of God.”** And yet, because the Holy Spirit has brought us to believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we’re **“greater than”** John the Baptist. Don’t get me wrong. John was a true believer in Jesus, too, just like we are. But he recognized that in relation to Jesus, he was nothing; Jesus was everything. John know his place. **“He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.”** Ah, but, **“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”**

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 A.M. (Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9 am)**

7305 208<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98053

(425) 868-9404 - [www.lhlc.org](http://www.lhlc.org), [pastortodd@lhlc.org](mailto:pastortodd@lhlc.org)



That's us! That's you and me! We're "born of God" by the water and the Word of Holy Baptism! We worship Jesus, the Maker of heaven and earth and the only Redeemer of mankind! **"The Word became flesh and tented among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."** Praise the Lord that He's opened your heart to see the fullness of His glory, His grace and His truth in Jesus! Amen.

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 A.M.** (Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9 am)  
7305 208<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98053  
(425) 868-9404 - [www.lhlc.org](http://www.lhlc.org), [pastortodd@lhlc.org](mailto:pastortodd@lhlc.org)