

*John  
11:25-26*

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

A Service of  
Hope and Remembrance for  
**Pekka J. Holmberg**

September 23, 2021  
11:00 a.m.

# A Service of Hope and Remembrance for Pekka J. Holmberg September 23, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

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## Call to Worship

**L** We do not want you to be uninformed about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep  
*(1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).*

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his *(Romans 6:3-5).*

**C** Nothing shall separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Invocation and Prayer

**L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Pekka.

**C** We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.

**L** In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.

**C** Give us your aid, so that we may see in Jesus the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Psalm.....Psalm 77

<sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to God,

aloud to God, and he will hear me.

<sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;

in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;

my soul refuses to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup> When I remember God, I moan;

when I meditate, my spirit faints.

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<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids open;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup> I consider the days of old,  
the years long ago.

<sup>6</sup> I said, "Let me remember my song in the night;  
let me meditate in my heart."  
Then my spirit made a diligent search:

<sup>7</sup> "Will the Lord spurn forever,  
and never again be favorable?

<sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love forever ceased?  
Are his promises at an end for all time?

<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?"

<sup>10</sup> Then I said, "I will appeal to this,  
to the years of the right hand of the Most High."

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the Lord;  
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup> I will ponder all your work,  
and meditate on your mighty deeds.

<sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is holy.  
What god is great like our God?

<sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders;  
you have made known your might among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> You with your arm redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> When the waters saw you, O God,  
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
indeed, the deep trembled.

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water;  
the skies gave forth thunder;  
your arrows flashed on every side.

<sup>18</sup> The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
your lightnings lighted up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook.

<sup>19</sup> Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the great waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.

<sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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**First Lesson..... Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup> For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- <sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- <sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- <sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- <sup>5</sup> a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- <sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- <sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- <sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Song ..... Praise You in This Storm**  
Casting Crowns

**Gospel Lesson ..... John 11:17-27, 38-44**

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

**Family Remembrances**



## Song..... *Morning Has Broken*

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

**L** Almighty God, come to us in this moment with your comfort, hope and peace. Grant all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may have confidence in the fullness of your love. Lord, in your mercy...

**C** Hear our prayer.

**L** Grant courage and faith to all who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope - that you have both the power and love to make all things right through the resurrection of your Son. Lord, in your mercy...

**C** Hear our prayer.

**L** Loving Father, we rejoice that you keep your promises. You made Pekka to be your own dear child in his baptism. Give us assurance that as your Son Jesus was raised from death; so too, your child Pekka will rise to new life. Lord, in your mercy...

**C** Hear our prayer.

**L** Heavenly Father, we entrust Pekka to your never failing love. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

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Hymn..... *On Eagles' Wings*

LSB 727

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain*

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under His wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you,  
Near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain*

**Commendation**

**L** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Pekka, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child of your own redeeming. Receive him and keep him in your loving care until that day, when you call him, and all your saints to life everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**Benediction**

*Everyone is invited to a luncheon following the service at the  
Holmberg home, located at 6820 Mastin in Merriam.*

**Officiant:** Rev. Dr. Mark R. Schulz

**Organist:** Dr. Elisa Bickers

*All Bible readings are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted. English Standard Version Bible. (2001). ESV Online. <https://www.biblegateway.com/>*

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# Pekka J. Holmberg

June 16, 1963 — September 6, 2021

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Pekka Juhani Holmberg, 58, of Merriam, Kansas, passed away in his family's arms on the morning of September 6, 2021, from complications of ALS.

Pekka was born in Kausala, Finland, on June 16, 1963, to Paavo and Eila (Virtanen) Holmberg. His father built a home for the family on the outskirts of Kausala in a neighborhood with lots of kids. He spent his time outside bicycling, camping, or exploring the woods nearby in the warmer months. In winter, Pekka liked skating, hockey, sledding, and cross-country skiing. His beloved uncle Seppo often took him hunting and fishing and these were some of Pekka's favorite memories. He remembered hunting moose even though he never wanted to fire at an animal himself. This love of being outdoors stayed with him throughout his life. Pekka was a good student and learned English, Swedish, German, and French on top of his native Finnish. He graduated from Iltti High School in 1982. After high school, he was drafted to serve in the Finnish Army and went on to become a Lieutenant. After his discharge he graduated from Lappeenranta College of Technology in 1989 with a B.S. in Construction Sciences. At the time of his death, Pekka was Assistant Construction Manager for K.U. Medical Center.

Pekka and his wife, Jenni Dean, met while she was in Finland visiting friends. After corresponding through letters and rare phone calls, and a short visit to the States, it was decided that they would be married and begin a life in Topeka, Kansas, where she lived at the time. They were married on February 22, 1992, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kansas. In 1993, they moved to Shawnee, Kansas. Blessings of two wonderful children followed--Emma Kristiina was born in 1997 followed by Lars Juhani in 2000.

Pekka will be remembered as a family man and a hard worker. Family always came first even if it meant a sacrifice on his part. He was a fair, patient and humble man, which can be seen in all the relationships he had with family, friends, and co-workers. He was also quite the handyman. He had a strong work ethic and would always try to learn a new task rather than hire things out. There wasn't a house project he wouldn't try to tackle--and he always succeeded. Together, he and Jenni enjoyed remodeling and completing home improvement plans. Whatever she wanted, he would try to figure a way to do it (most of the time anyway).

Pekka had a lifelong passion for cars and motorcycles. Driven by his need for speed, he began tinkering with mechanics. He and his friend Pertti were able to rebuild several motorcycles. They both belonged to the motorcycle club Jerusalem MC and took trips with the group. Beginning in the early 90's he worked alongside his friend Frank at Frankenstein Trikes, which he continued until 2021. He got to work on a lot of cool cars and he enjoyed seeing the results of his hard work. He loved taking his 2005 Road Glider out and dreamed of owning a 60's hardtop MG.

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Pekka loved traveling, whether it was a bike trip to Sturgis or a drive up to Maine to enjoy nature. Most recently Pekka and Jenni traveled to Arkansas to admire the fall foliage. Pekka was never opposed to a trip to Parkville to enjoy family time at Wines by Jennifer.

Pekka will be forever missed by his family, wife Jennifer and children Emma and Lars. He is survived by his sister Satu (Matti) Levanen and nephews Mikko and Juho of Jyvaskyla, Finland; mother-in-law Judy Dean; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Kim and Michael White; nephews Brayden and Jordan; Uncle Seppo (Kaitsu) Virtinan of Kausala, Finland; and Aunt Helena Tilli (Seppo) of Myllykoski, Finland. He was preceded in death by his parents Paavo and Eila Holmberg and father-in-law William R. Dean.

We would like to thank the ALS Association Mid America Chapter for all of their guidance and support after his diagnosis. We would also like to thank Kansas City Hospice for all the love and care given in Pekka's last days, as well as the many friends and family who are helping us endure the loss of this great man.

Memorial Contributions may be made to ALS Association Mid America Chapter or to Kansas City Hospice.



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