

Service for the Burial of the Dead

Donald B. Davidson, Jr.
April 20, 1929—July 6, 2025



Friday, October 10, 2025
4 o'clock in the afternoon

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church,
Los Alamos

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.



Service for the Burial of the Dead

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

Friday, October 10, 2025
4 o'clock in the afternoon

*Please note: The congregational responses are in **bold**, and all hymns are found in the blue
"Hymnal 1982" in your pew racks.*

Organ Prelude

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn: "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended"

Hymnal 24

The Anthems:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
For they rest from their labors.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Don. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Lessons.

A Reading from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 12, verses 1-7

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper bud falls; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (*spoken responsively by whole verse*)

The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A reading from the Book of Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 14-19, 34-35, and 37-39

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Sequence Hymn: “Holy, holy, holy!”

Hymnal 362

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 11, vv. 17-27

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Remarks by the Family

The Homily

The Rev. Mary Ann Hill

The Apostles' Creed

The Celebrant says

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**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 to the dead.
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 of the People *(please kneel as you are able)*

For our brother Don, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life." Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Don, and dry the tears of those who weep. **Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow. **Hear us, Lord.**

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life. **Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven. **Hear us, Lord.**

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints. **Hear us, Lord.**

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom. **Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother, Don, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Hymn: "A mighty fortress is our God"

Hymnal 688

The Commendation

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant, with your saints,

People **where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Celebrant You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant, with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Don. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ;

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: “Abide with me”

Hymnal 662

Postlude: “Ashokan Farewell”

Jay Unger

***Please join Don’s family and friends for a reception
in Kelly Hall following the service.***

Serving Today

Organist	John Singleton
Violin	Robin Pekar
Celebrant/Homilist	The Rev. Mary Ann Hill
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. Canon Colin P. Kelly, III
Crucifer	Susan Sprake
Lay Reader	Susan Sprake
Greeters	Marilyn and Paul Lisowski
Funeral Reception	The Davidson Family; Ellie Giovanielli and helpers
Altar Guild	Susannah Smith, Rozelle and Brad Wright

DONALD B. DAVIDSON, Jr. April 20, 1929 – July 6, 2025

Donald B. Davidson, Jr., was born on April 20, 1929, in Chicago, IL., the eldest son of Donald B. and Ruth M. Davidson. He was raised with his brother Duncan C. Davidson, Carmel, IN., (deceased) and his sister, Susan M. Merrell, Sun City, AZ. Don passed from this earthly life on July 6, 2025, at the age of 96.

Following in his father's footsteps, Don studied at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, graduating with a BS in Fire Protection & Safety Engineering in 1951. After a stint in the Insurance industry, he joined Los Alamos National Laboratory Safety Division in 1973. Inspired by LANL's mission, he pursued an MS in Nuclear Engineering at the University of New Mexico, mid-career. He proudly enlisted in service to his country as a member of the US Army Reserve, in Chicago, IL., during his senior year of college. He retired with the rank of Major, 27 years later.

Don felt lucky to have met his wife Lorel Sorensen, at the Fire Insurance Inspection Bureau, and they married in Wheaton, IL., in 1955. Five children eventually joined the family, Deborah, White Rock, NM; Cynthia, Golden Valley, AZ; Donald III, Las Cruces, NM; Douglas (deceased); and Darren, Los Lunas, NM. He joked that 2 girls and 3 boys became an automatic full house. He was proud of his nine grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandson. In a special milestone that many would admire, Don and Lorel were able to enjoy 70 years of marriage.

Realizing Los Alamos was going to be "home", he affiliated with Pajarito Masonic Lodge #66. Enjoying his fraternal friendships, Don joined the Shriners, York Rite, and Scottish Rite organizations. One of the proudest moments of his life was being recommended and selected for the great honor of being awarded his 33rd degree in Scottish Rite. He and Lorrie together joined the Order of Eastern Star, Los Alamos Chapter #63. He often said that joining such warm and welcoming Charitable Organizations greatly enriched his life.

Celebration of Life will be 4 p.m. Friday, October 10, at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church, Los Alamos, NM.

Masonic/Eastern Star Memorial Service will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 11, at the Masonic Lodge, Los Alamos, NM. All are welcome to either service.

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
3900 Trinity Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87544
Office (505) 662-5107
www.latoth.org

The Rev. Mary Ann Hill, Rector: momaryannhill@gmail.com
Music Director: Louisa Singleton: ljs020596@gmail.com
Organist: John Singleton: john.singleton@physics.ox.ac.uk
Parish Administrator: Nancy Coombs: admin@latoth.org
Office Manager: Claire Singleton: admin@latoth.org
Bookkeeper: Angela Keiter: bookkeeper@latoth.org
Nursery Manager: Wendy Strain
Sexton: Wendy Huff