



“Peace

I leave with you,
My peace I give to you:
not as the world giveth,
give I unto you.
let not your heart
be troubled, neither
let it be afraid.”

JOHN 14:21

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

May 16, 2026

In Loving Memory of

Donald Ray Dillon

January 25, 1936 – April 19, 2026

A VICTORY IN CHRIST

We gather here today mindful of two realities at once. We feel the weight of separation and the sadness that comes with death. Yet, at the same time, we come in faith and hope. We place Don Dillon into the care of the God who created, redeemed, and sanctified him. In Christ, death does not have the final word. If sorrow and joy can possibly come together, now is the time – as our loved one has passed from this earthly brokenness and tribulation into the arms of his Savior in paradise.

LIFE THROUGH BAPTISM

In Holy Baptism, Don was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul writes: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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*)

CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

HYMN

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

The Lord’s my Shepherd I’ll not want,
He makes me down to lie, in pastures green;
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make; within the paths of righteousness,
E’en for His own name’s sake.

Yea, tho’ I walk in death’s dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill for Thou art with me and
Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes; my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me, and in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

INVOCATION

- P** We gather here today to receive and to share with each other the comfort and strength of our Lord.
- C** **In His Word is both life and hope which is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- P** In You, O Lord, do we trust. Be with us this day as we need and seek Your guidance and direction in grief and sorrow.
- C** **In You, O Lord, do we trust. And so, we make our beginning in the name of the Father Who created us, the Son Who redeemed both body and soul, and the Holy Spirit Who made this earthly body the temple of our Lord. Amen.**
- P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today, Don, our brother in Christ. We thank You for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion here on earth. In Your unlimited compassion, console us who mourn. Enable us, Lord, to be able to see in death the gate to eternal life and that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with Don and those who have gone before us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God the Father Who loved us, and by His grace gave us eternal life, strengthen you in every good deed and word. (*2 Thess. 2:16–17*)
- C** **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

PSALM 130 (ESV)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! ² O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! ³ If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand? ⁴ But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for

the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. ⁸ And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-8 (ESV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

GOSPEL PROMISE John 11:17-27 (ESV)

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

HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

MESSAGE

“REDEMPTION”

John 11:17-27
Rev. Jim Sprenkle

PRAYER

- P** O God, our Father in Heaven:
- C** **Have Mercy.**
- P** O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:
- C** **Have Mercy.**
- P** O God the Holy Spirit, our Counselor:
- C** **Grant us Your peace.**
- P** O, how glorious is that Kingdom wherein all the saints rejoice with Christ.
- C** **They are clothed with white robes and follow the Lamb wherever He goes.**
- P** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
- C** **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**
- P** Loving and merciful God, if it were not for the promise of the resurrection and life eternal, we could not endure the sorrow which has come upon this gathering. Only the assurance of Your continual presence enables us to carry on during these times. Lord, do not let these loved ones mourn as those who have no hope. Comfort them day after day with the precious promise of Your Word. Give them grace to come to You and to find rest for their souls.

P Merciful God, You have appointed us to endure trouble and sorrow with our Lord Jesus Christ before we enter with Him into glory. Enable us to be strong in faith to the end and to find peace and joy in the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come. We pray through Jesus.

C Amen.

SOLO

**“The Lord’s Prayer”
Karon Keup**

THE COMMENDATION

P Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant, Donald Ray Dillon. We humbly ask, Lord, that You acknowledge him as a sheep of Your fold, a lamb of Your flock, and a sinner whom You have redeemed. Receive him into Your merciful arms, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in Heaven.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

(Elderly Simeon spoke the following words when Baby Jesus was presented to him in the temple.)

Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel. *Luke 2:29-32*

May God enable you to see Jesus as your salvation. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

“Abide with Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*The family invites you to join them
in the Community Room for a time of
refreshment, remembrance and fellowship.*

Remembrances:

Ascension Lutheran Bell Choir

Officiant: **Pastor Jim Sprengle**

Musician: **Brad Hall**

Solo: **Karon Keup**

Acknowledgements

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Lord's My Shepherd, Irvine, Jessie Seymour / Rous, Francis / Mure, William / Whittingham, William © Public Domain

CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

Donald Ray Dillon

January 25, 1936 – April 19, 2026

† † †



Donald Ray Dillon passed away quietly in his home on April 19, 2026, at the age of 90. Don was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church, Pocatello, Idaho where he remained a member throughout his life.

Don served in the United States Army in the Honor Guard. After leaving the Armed Services, he worked as a switchman for Union Pacific Railroad, retiring in 1995. Don met his lifetime love, Norma, of 55 years in Pocatello. They were married August 2, 1970, in

Norma's hometown of Oberlin, Kansas. Two beautiful and loving daughters were born to their union, Jean (Jeannie) Diane Dillon, and Marianne Helen Dillon.

Don loved cars and basketball. He especially enjoyed playing basketball with his brothers and with anyone in the neighborhood who was ready for a game of HORSE. He also loved working outdoors, whether he was doing yard work, mowing his own lawn, or lawns in the neighborhood, Don was always willing to do small chores to make the neighborhood clean and beautiful.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Laura Dillon of Pocatello, Idaho; and his brothers, Robert and James Dillon.

He is survived by his wife, Norma; his daughters, Jean and Marianne; his sister, Nancy; and his brother, John. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.