INTROIT: Drop, drop, slow tears – Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Rev Marylee Anderson [00:01:49] A very warm welcome to our Evensong for Holy Week. My name is Marylee and I am one of the Chaplains at the University of Aberdeen alongside my friend and colleague, David Hutchison. As well as ourselves, tonight we will be joined by our Director of Chapel and Ceremonial music, Stuart Muir; Liam Dyker, our Hopkins Conducting Scholar; members of the University of Aberdeen Chapel Choir and our readers James and Louise. And our thanks also go to Anthony White who has put this video together for us.

We have gathered from across Scotland and the rest of the UK, as well as the world, to come together in worship and we are so pleased to have you with us.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life. Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us. Lent calls us to journey with God. So let us worship God together, God who walks with us this and every day.

RESPONSES: S Wallace in G minor  Cantor: Liam Dyker

PSALM: Psalm 121 – chant: Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)  
Cantors: Lewa Oloasebikan and Christopher Brighty

Rev Dr James Garnett [00:06:09] The first reading is from The Wisdom of Solomon with extracts from chapters one and two. Do not invite death by the error of your life, or bring on destruction by the works of your hands; because God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal. But the ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, ‘Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. ‘Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, ‘Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. ‘Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God’s child, God will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he
will be protected.’ Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

**[00:09:02] MAGNIFICAT:** Plainsong, Tone VIII.i with Fauxbourdons by Thomas Morley (1557-1602) *Cantor: Marcus Wylie*

**Dr Louise Page** [00:10:59] The second reading is taken from the Gospel according to John, starting at chapter 13, verse one. Listen now for the Word of God. Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his day had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose. When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, where are you going?’ Jesus answered, ‘Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterwards.’ Peter said to him, ‘Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.’ Jesus answered, ‘Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times. ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. Thanks be to God.

**[00:14:35] NUNC DIMITTIS:** Plainsong, Tone V.i with Fauxbourdons by Thomas Morley (1557-1602) *Cantor: Cade Strathern*

**Rev David Hutchison** [00:14:41] The Apostles Creed. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

**[00:15:50] SUFFRAGES AND RESPONSES:** S Wallace in G minor *Cantor: Liam Dyker*

**COLLECTS:** Collect for the Day; Collect for Peace; Collect for Aid *Cantor: Liam Dyker*

**ANTHEM:** I give to you a new commandment – Peter Nardone (b 1965)

**Rev Marylee Anderson** [00:22:46] Let us pray. Ever present God, we thank you that throughout these times of uncertainty and change, you remind us to not let our hearts be troubled. You are the God who journeys with us. A God who never leaves us nor forsakes us. For you love us and are with us always. Through this journey of Lent, as we travel towards Easter Sunday and the Cross we are reminded that you know what it is to suffer.
Healing God, You are with us, so we remember all those who are victims of Covid, for those who we know in our hearts are suffering through ill health. For those who grieve and long to see their loved ones. And so we pray that you would help us and restore us. Merciful God, You are with us, so we pray for all those who inflict pain on others and on our world, through our selfishness or greed, through our brokenness or anger, through our rigidity, our need to be right. And so we pray that you would help us and restore us. Loving God, You are with us and all those who are fearful of threats to this world we call home, to our safety and survival, to our sense of community and togetherness as people. And so we pray that you would help us and restore us. Christ of the Cross, see our need of Your grace, hear our prayer for Your mercy and come to us again to help and restore, because we cannot help ourselves. Amen.

[00:25:24] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY: Chorale Prelude: Herzlich tut mich verlangen (BWV 727) – Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) (Organ: Stuart Muir)

Voiceover [00:28:11] This podcast is brought to you by the University of Aberdeen.