Welcome to this short Lenten Meditation. My name is David Hutchison, one of the Chaplains here at the University of Aberdeen. The music sung is pre-recorded at the University’s King's College Chapel. Our cantors today are Christopher Brighty and Lewa Oloasebikan, the organ is played by Stuart Muir our Director of Chapel Music. We are grateful also to our guitarist Matthew McAllister for permission to use the recording at the end of the service. We hope these podcasts will help you to join us as we travel toward the Cross.

Let us pray. God of all seasons, in your pattern of things, there is a time for keeping and a time for losing, a time for building up and a time for pulling down. In this holy season of Lent, as we journey with our Lord to the cross, help us to discern in our lives what we must lay down and what we must take up, what we must end and what we must begin. Give us grace to lead a disciplined life, in glad obedience and with the joy which comes from a closer walk with Christ. Amen.

SUNG PSALM Psalm 31 (Setting: Guimont) CANTOR: Chris Brighty

Our reading comes from Mark, Chapter one, verses 9 to 15. In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart, and the spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.” And the spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for 40 days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts and the angels waited on him. Now, after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Amen.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION Litany to the Holy Spirit – Peter Hurford CANTOR: Lewa Oloasebikan

Let us pray. Ever gracious and ever giving Lord, during these days of restrictions, vaccinations and uncertainty, grant us all patience, strength and a willingness to endure further periods of isolation to serve the greater good. Help us all to be creative in imagining ways of communicating our love and concern for others, especially those less well off than ourselves. Tend, we pray, the homeless, those hospitalised and those who are at their wit’s end. Provide light, hope and a determination, to bear all things. For your sake and for your honour, we pray.

(From the Book of Common Prayer)
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day all those who have died in the past year. We thank you for giving them to us, their family and friends, to know and to love.
as companions 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, we pray. Amen.

[00:10:30] And we say the word of the grace together. And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Evermore. Amen.

CLOSING MUSIC  Sonatina – J S Bach  GUITARIST: Matthew McAllister

Voiceover [00:13:39] This podcast is brought to you by the University of Aberdeen.