

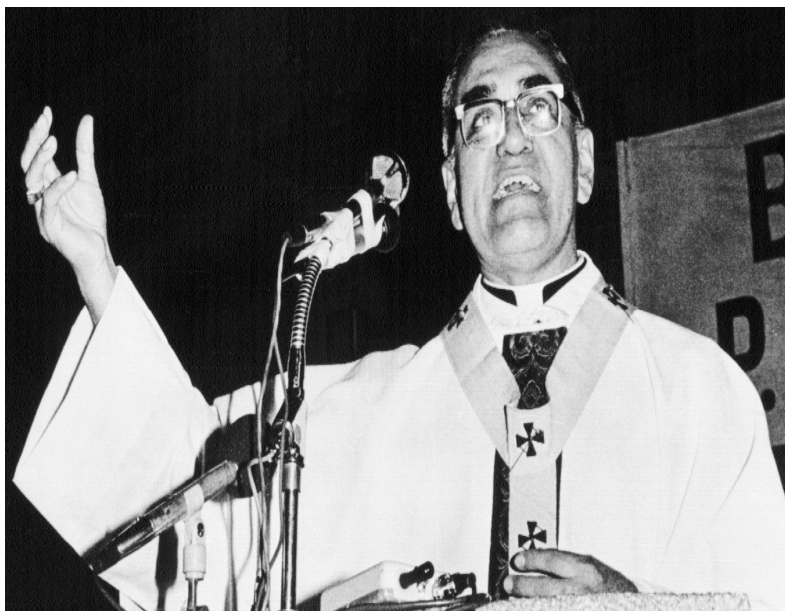


ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL
SOUTHWARK

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST GEORGE



A Mass for the 40th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Saint Oscar Romero



St. Oscar Romero - A microphone of God's Word

To have been celebrated by the Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, 21 March 2020
NOW POSTPONED



contact: romerotrust@gmail.com website: www.romerotrust.org.uk

Archbishop Romero Trust registered charity no:1110069

Entrance Hymn: God has spoken by his prophets - *G. W. Briggs* (Tune: Abbots Leigh)

God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging Word;
each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord!
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor still holds fast,
God is on his throne eternal,
he alone the first and last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father, ever one:
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God, before all time began,
light of light, to earth descending,
he reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by his Spirit
speaking to the hearts of all;
in the age-long Word declaring
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast:
God abides, his Word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.

Greeting & Welcome

Penitential Rite: We gather to remember the martyrdom of Saint Oscar Romero, recognising the living witness of a Bishop and Martyr of our own times, always at one with the Church, faithful to the Word, and slain at the Breaking of the Bread. We humbly ask pardon for our sins so that we may be worthy to come to the table of the Lord as we now prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries ...

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the nations: Lord, have mercy

Christ Jesus, you are the transfigured Saviour: Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you are the Word of God for your people: Lord, have mercy

Absolution

Collect Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, who were pleased to adorn the Bishop and Martyr, Saint Oscar with the grace of laying down his life and of confessing his love for you while celebrating the Eucharist, graciously grant, we pray, that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion through his death, so we may follow in his footsteps, and be worthy to attain eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

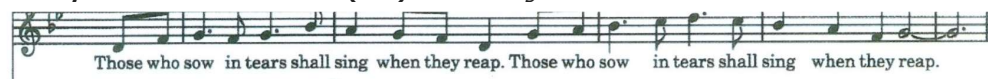
A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

(10: 32-36)

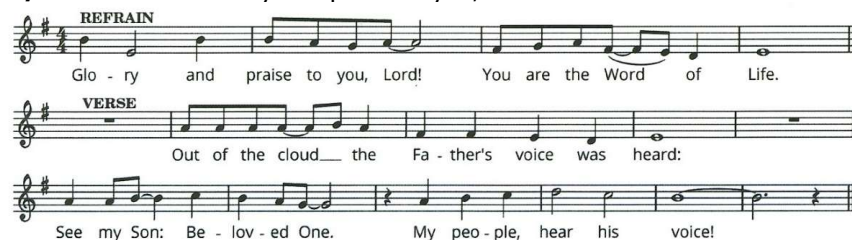
Remember all the sufferings that you had to meet after you received the light, in earlier days; sometimes by being yourselves publicly exposed to insults and violence, and sometimes as associates of others who were treated in the same way. For you not only shared in the sufferings of those who were in prison, but you happily accepted being stripped of your belongings, knowing that you owned something that was better and lasting. Be as confident now, then, since the reward is so great. You will need endurance to do God's will and gain what he has promised.

The word of the Lord - Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm : Ps. 125 (126) - C J Olding



Gospel Acclamation : Glory and praise to you, Lord - Chris O'Hara



The Lord be with you. And with your spirit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

(24: 13-35)

Glory to you, O Lord.

That very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognizing him. He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days." "What things?" he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth," they answered, "who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing." Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening," they said, "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?" They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then they told their

story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord - Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Commissioning of the Guardians of the Shrine of St. Oscar Romero

Mr. Julian Filochowski, Canon Alan McLean, Ms. Kathleen O'Brien, and Canon John O' Toole.

Canon Richard Hearn : In accordance with the provisions of Canons 1230 and 1233, formally establishing the Shrine of St. Oscar Romero at the Cathedral Church of St. George, Southwark, and as its Rector and Dean, I ask you, Archbishop John, to commission the following persons, Mr. Julian Filochowski, Canon Alan McLean, Ms. Kathleen O'Brien, and Canon John O' Toole, as Guardians of this Shrine for the coming five years.

Archbishop John : Will you follow the example of Saint Oscar Romero in your care for this Shrine, enabling all who venerate his memory to be at one with the Church in pondering the Word of God and remaining faithful to the Breaking of the Bread?

Guardians : I will.

Archbishop John : In your care for this Shrine will you maintain not only a concern for its upkeep but also a commitment to promote the message of St. Oscar Romero who was a voice for the voiceless?

Guardians : I will.

Archbishop John : May God who has begun this good work in you give you grace and strength to remain faithful to this task, and I therefore commission you as Guardians of this Diocesan Shrine of St. Oscar Romero for the coming five years.

Bidding Prayers

Archbishop John : As the Spirit of God brings the community of faith to life, each and every day, so may that same Spirit renew in us the historic memory of St. Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr, strengthening us to work for justice and solidarity, reconciliation, unity and peace, as we now pray:

For all who believe in Christ: that like Saint Oscar Romero we may be witnesses of the love and justice of God in the world and signs of unity. Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

For the poorest peoples and communities across the world: that the example of Saint Oscar Romero's faith-doing-justice might inspire a lively commitment to solidarity amongst all peoples, praying particularly for El Salvador, that violence may be overcome by harmony, poverty by prosperity, and war by peace. Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

For our global family: that as governments seek sustainable goals for aid and human development, so too may CAFOD, Christian Aid, and other agencies committed to be the voices of those who have no voice, be inspired by the words and deeds of Saint Oscar Romero. Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

For the work of the Archbishop Romero Trust, and the ministries and witness to the memory of Saint Oscar Romero in this Cathedral Church of St. George, in Westminster Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, St. Alban's Abbey, and many other places: that we may continue to be inspired by the lives and deaths of all our martyrs to build up the common good and a richer unity in faith. Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

For those who, today, have accepted responsibility as Guardians of the Shrine of St. Oscar Romero: that they may honour his memory in all they do and say. Lord, in your mercy – Hear our prayer.

For all who have died, working for justice, peace, and unity: that they may inherit joy and peace, and all unknown victims of war and violence, also remembering Emeritus Archbishop Peter Smith. Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

For all who are gathered here: that we might imitate the values which drove Saint Oscar Romero in his journey of faith and search for justice, as we now pray in some moments of silence Lord, in your mercy - Hear our prayer.

And we unite our prayers with Mary, Mother of the Poor, as we say: Hail Mary

Loving God, you called your servant Saint Oscar Romero to be a voice for the voiceless poor, and to give his life as a seed of freedom and a sign of hope: Hear the prayers of your people and grant that, inspired by his sacrifice and the example of all the martyrs of El Salvador, we may without fear or favour witness to your Word who abides, your Word who is Life, even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory now and for ever. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hymn : Who will speak - *Marty Haugen*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuQbeqq5N0A>

Refrain:



Who will speak if we don't,
who will speak if we don't?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh who will speak if we don't?

Who will speak for the poor and the broken?
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless?
Speak the truth in the places of power?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will speak for the children of violence?
Who will speak for the people abused?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will work for the thousands of homeless?
Who will work in the ghettos and streets?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

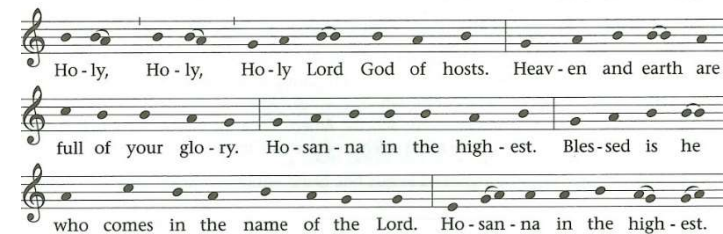
Who will care for the weak and the aged?
Who will care for the ones with no hope?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

Who will act for our common home?
Who will strive to save God's creation
Who will speak so these needs will be heard?
Who will speak if we don't? **refrain**

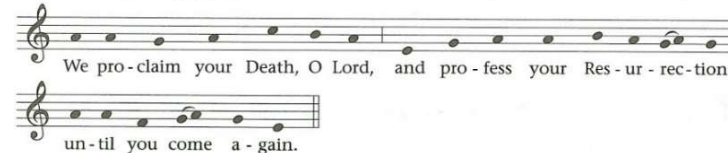
Prayer over the offerings

Make holy with your blessing, O Lord, these offerings which we make, and give us the grace to live burning with the fire of your love which gave the bishop and martyr, Saint Oscar, the strength to endure sufferings. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

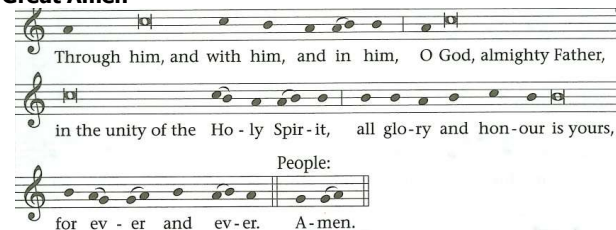
Mass Setting : English Chant



Memorial Acclamation A



Great Amen



At the Breaking of Bread

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Communion: God, you raise up true disciples - *C J Olding*
<https://soundcloud.com/wheatsheafmusic/god-you-raise-up-true-disciples>

1. God, you raise up true dis-ci-ples, teach-ers, mart-yrs deep in faith.
2. Yours the gos-pel that dis-turbs us, words that must de-mand a choice;

1. Like Ro-mer-o, ho-ly peo-ple, giv-ing wit-ness to your grace.
2. speak-ing to a brok-en peo-ple, hope for those who have no voice.

1. Let us list-en to their voic-es, speak-ing of new ways to live.
2. Stir in us your call to act-ion, rouse us from our a-pa-thy.

1. By their words and by their act-ions, we may know the love you give.
2. In the plac-es lost to dark-ness, we will shine for all to see.

3. Still our brothers, sisters suffer,
helpless and afraid to speak,
victims of oppressors using
power to dominate the weak.
When we see injustice near us,
we will cry out: 'This must cease!'
And by our example, turn this
world from violence back to peace.

4. In the gift of your creation,
you provide for every need.
Yet we squander earth's resources
just to satisfy our greed.
Turn our eyes to see the anguish
on the faces of the poor.
Open wide our hearts and hands to
help the needy at our door.

5. On the ground a seed has fallen,
crushed and buried in the earth.
There it lies 'till time appointed,
then a harvest brings to birth.
In our struggling and our suffering,
help us daily bear our pain,
as we give our lives for others
so they come to know your name.

6. Brought together by your Spirit,
one in you, our risen Lord,
now you send us as your chosen,
hearts emboldened, hope restored.
Like Romero, we will serve you
and whatever may befall,
we'll devote ourselves to justice
and the common good of all.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, may the sacrament we have received give us the strength with which the bishop and martyr, St. Oscar Romero, always showed himself faithful to your service and overcame suffering. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing & Dismissal

May the Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy. **Amen.**

May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn: The powerless whisper - *Andrew Pratt* (Tune: Kingsfold)

The powerless whisper in the void, the powerful take the stage.
God give us courage and the voice to share and speak our rage.
Then may that rage, inspired by grace, mould, challenge and persuade,
until decision-makers hear, and love those they betrayed.

When wealth is allied to the cause of politics or class,
God give insightful empathy to clear the misted glass,
to help us see with clearer sight, the way another lives,
to recognise that we can change the fate that history gives.

Give credence to the claim we make: we share a common birth,
that all are equal under God upon this ravaged earth.
Let actions magnify the words, the arguments we make,
until decision-makers feel their old assumptions quake.

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