**March 24th: Oscar Romero, Archbishop in El Salvador**

Died at the altar saying the mass, March 24th, 1980

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**as the day rises to meet the sun.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Unless a seed falls into the ground and dies;

**it cannot bear fruit or bless others’ lives.**

Psalm 119:34-37

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;\*

**I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Incline my heart to your decrees;\*

**and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;\*

**give me life in your ways.**

**Mark 9:14-29**

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus[ asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Meditation**

“It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetimes only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is the Lord’s work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No sermon says all that should be said. No prayer fully expressed our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church’s mission. No set of goals and objectives included everything. That is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted knowing they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that affects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very, very, well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the Master Builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.”

Oscar Romero

**Prayers**

Loving God, in our faith, we pray:

For reconciliation between the violated and the violent;

**That we may rest in your peace.**

For generosity between rich and poor people everywhere;

**That we may share the abundance of your creation.**

For the growth of love between broken peoples and nations,

**That we may shape our common life as your kingdom**.

For mutual respect between immigrants and insiders,

**That we may welcome your image in all who come to us.**

For protection for the weak and humility for the strong,

**That we may serve others as you serve us in Christ.**

*You may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.*

For all the joys and concerns of our hearts,

**That we may live with gladness and trust.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Going Out**

Show our hearts Your way,

**and we shall follow.**