

*Send down the fire of your justice,  
send down the rains of your love;  
come, send down the Spirit,  
breathe life in your people,  
and we shall be people of God.*

Call us to be your compassion,  
teach us the song of your love;  
give us hearts that sing,  
give us deeds that ring,  
make us ring with the sound of your love.

Call us to learn of your mercy,  
teach us the way of your peace;  
give us hearts that feel,  
give us hands that heal,  
make us walk in the way of your peace.

Call us to answer oppression,  
teach us the fire of your truth;  
give us righteous souls,  
till your justice rolls,  
make us burn with the fire of your truth.

Call us to witness your kingdom,  
give us the presence of Christ;  
may your holy light  
keep us shining bright,  
ever shine with the presence of Christ.

StF 413

Marty Haugen

## The Cotteridge Church

Proper 15

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022



## Bible Readings

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

## Collect for Proper 15

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Proper 15

God sends prophets to give the world His message in every century. Oscar Romero, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dom Helder Camara, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel, Ita Ford, Jeanne Donovan, and Ella Baker were all twentieth century prophets who had the courage of their Christian convictions to follow Jesus and proclaim his undiluted message which cast fire on earth and caused healthy division in the society as today's gospel points out. In 1980, in the midst of a U.S.-funded genocidal war against the so-called leftist rebels in El Salvador, Archbishop Oscar Romero who sided with the poor, exploited farm workers, declared: "If they kill all your priests and the bishop too, each one of you must become God's microphone, each one of you must become a prophet." "I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will be resurrected in the Salvadoran people." The U.S. sent \$1.5 million in aid every day for 12 years. Archbishop Romero's letter went unheeded. Two months later he was assassinated ending a long homily addressed to the pro-government land owners and peasants and the military and broadcast throughout the country, his voice rose to breaking, "Brothers, you are from the same people; you kill your fellow peasants . . . No soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God." There was thunderous applause; he was inviting the army to mutiny. Then his voice burst, "In the name of God then, in the name of this suffering people I ask you, I beg you, I command you in the name of God: stop the repression." Oscar Romero gave his last homily on March 24, moments before a sharpshooter felled him at the altar of a hospital chapel. Reflecting on the day's scripture, he had said, "One must not love oneself so much, as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life that history demands of us, and those that fend off danger will lose their lives." In an interview as he was flying to Brazil in May, 2007 Pope Benedict told the reporters, "Romero as a person merits beatification." In July 2007, the new Salvadoran conservative government said it would formally request the Vatican to beatify Romero although it will not accept responsibility for his slaying. Today's readings remind us that the Church needs prophets like Romero and cautions contemporary prophets that their course will not be easy.