

May I Speak Out



Lord of Light, Lord of Hope,

Your prophet cried, “Shout it aloud, do
not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.”¹

Yet I have seen your people suffer,
And have remained silent too long.
Help me speak out.

When human dignity is not honored,
may I speak out.

When the poor are oppressed,
may I speak out.

When injustice reigns,
may I speak out.

When charity is absent,
may I speak out.

When rights are not respected,
may I speak out.

When the law is unjust,
may I speak out.

When violence is normalized,
may I speak out.

When other voices are silenced,
may I speak out.

When I am most afraid to speak
out,
may I speak out nonetheless.

Lord, give me the courage to be your
microphone²:
That my words may shine as brightly as
yours,
to still the oppressor’s sword
and soften the hearts of the mighty.

Even now, I shudder at the thought of
speaking.
But you have promised that those who
trust in you
will not be put to shame.
And to remain silent when I have seen
what there is to see
grows more unthinkable every day.

Now is a time for prayer, Lord.
Soon it will be a time for speaking.
May I speak out

amen

¹ Isaiah 58:1

² Oscar Romero, *The Violence of Love*.