Leader: 1 Why standest Thou afar off, O Lord? why hidest Thou Thyself in times of trouble?

Response: **2 The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined**

Leader: 3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth.

Response: **4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.**

Leader: 5 His ways are always grievous; Thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them.

Response: **6 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.**

Leader: 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

Response: **8 He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.**

Leader: 9 He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.

Response: **10 He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.**

Leader: 11 He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: He hideth His face; He will never see it.

Response: **12 Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up Thine hand: forget not the humble.**

Leader: 13 Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it

Response: **14 Thou hast seen it; for Thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with Thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto Thee; Thou art the helper of the fatherless.**

Leader: 15 Break Thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till Thou find none.

Response: **16 The Lord is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of His land.**

Leader: 17 Lord, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble: Thou wilt prepare their heart, Thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear:

Response: **18 To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.**