Leader: 1 Why do you stand far off, Yahweh?

Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?

Response: **2 In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the weak.**

**They are caught in the schemes that they devise.**

Leader: 3 For the wicked boasts of his heart’s cravings.

He blesses the greedy and condemns Yahweh.

Response: **4 The wicked, in the pride of his face,**

**has no room in his thoughts for God.**

Leader: 5 His ways are prosperous at all times.

He is arrogant, and your laws are far from his sight.

As for all his adversaries, he sneers at them.

Response: **6 He says in his heart, “I shall not be shaken.**

**For generations I shall have no trouble.”**

Leader: 7 His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression.

Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity.

Response: **8 He lies in wait near the villages.**

**From ambushes, he murders the innocent.**

**His eyes are secretly set against the helpless.**

Leader: 9 He lurks in secret as a lion in his ambush.

He lies in wait to catch the helpless.

He catches the helpless when he draws him in his net.

Response: **10 The helpless are crushed.**

**They collapse.**

**They fall under his strength.**

Leader: 11 He says in his heart, “God has forgotten.

He hides His face.

He will never see it.”

Response: **12 Arise, Yahweh!**

**God, lift up Your hand!**

**Don’t forget the helpless.**

Leader: 13 Why does the wicked person condemn God,

and say in his heart, “God won’t call me into account?”

Response: **14 But You do see trouble and grief.**

**You consider it to take it into Your hand.**

**You help the victim and the fatherless.**

Leader: 15 Break the arm of the wicked.

As for the evil man, seek out his wickedness until You find none

Response: **16 Yahweh is King forever and ever!**

**The nations will perish out of His land.**

Leader: 17 Yahweh, You have heard the desire of the humble.

You will prepare their heart.

You will cause Your ear to hear,

Response: **18 to judge the fatherless and the oppressed,**

**that man who is of the earth may terrify no more.**