Leader: 1 Hear this, all you peoples.

Listen, all you inhabitants of the world,

Response: **2 both low and high,**

**rich and poor together.**

Leader: 3 My mouth will speak words of wisdom.

My heart will utter understanding.

Response: **4 I will incline my ear to a proverb.**

**I will solve my riddle on the harp.**

Leader: 5 Why should I fear in the days of evil,

when iniquity at my heels surrounds me?

Response: **6 Those who trust in their wealth,**

**and boast in the multitude of their riches—**

Leader: 7 none of them can by any means redeem his brother,

nor give God a ransom for him.

Response: **8 For the redemption of their life is costly,**

**no payment is ever enough,**

Leader: 9 that he should live on forever,

that he should not see corruption.

Response: **10 For he sees that wise men die;**

**likewise the fool and the senseless perish,**

**and leave their wealth to others.**

Leader: 11 Their inward thought is that their houses will endure forever,

and their dwelling places to all generations.

They name their lands after themselves.

Response: **12 But man, despite his riches, doesn’t endure.**

**He is like the animals that perish.**

Leader: 13 This is the destiny of those who are foolish,

and of those who approve their sayings.

Response: **14 They are appointed as a flock for Sheol.**

**Death shall be their shepherd.**

**The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning.**

**Their beauty shall decay in Sheol,**

**far from their mansion.**

Leader: 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol,

for He will receive me.

Response: **16 Don’t be afraid when a man is made rich,**

**when the glory of his house is increased;**

Leader: 17 for when he dies he will carry nothing away

His glory won’t descend after him.

Response: **18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul—**

**and men praise you when you do well for yourself—**

Leader: 19 he shall go to the generation of his fathers.

They shall never see the light.

Response: **20 A man who has riches without understanding,**

**is like the animals that perish.**