Leader: 1 Do you indeed speak righteousness, silent ones?

Do you judge blamelessly, you sons of men?

Response: **2 No, in your heart you plot injustice.**

**You measure out the violence of your hands in the earth.**

Leader: 3 The wicked go astray from the womb.

They are wayward as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

Response: **4 Their poison is like the poison of a snake,**

**like a deaf cobra that stops its ear,**

Leader: 5 which doesn’t listen to the voice of charmers,

no matter how skillful the charmer may be.

Response: **6 Break their teeth, God, in their mouth.**

**Break out the great teeth of the young lions, Yahweh.**

Leader: 7 Let them vanish like water that flows away.

When they draw the bow, let their arrows be made blunt.

Response: **8 Let them be like a snail which melts and passes away,**

**like the stillborn child, who has not seen the sun.**

Leader: 9 Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns,

he will sweep away the green and the burning alike.

Response: **10 The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance**

**He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked,**

**11 so that men shall say, “Most certainly there is a reward for the righteous.**

**Most certainly there is a God who judges the earth.”**