Refrain:  The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice.

1  Do you indeed speak justly, you mighty? ♦
Do you rule the peoples with equity?

2  With unjust heart you act throughout the land; ♦
your hands mete out violence.

3  The wicked are estranged, even from the womb; ♦
those who speak falsehood go astray from their birth.

4  They are as venomous as a serpent; ♦
they are like the deaf adder which stops its ears,

5  Which does not heed the voice of the charmers, ♦
and is deaf to the skilful weaver of spells. [R]

6  Break, O God, their teeth in their mouths; ♦
smash the fangs of these lions, O Lord.

7  Let them vanish like water that runs away; ♦
let them wither like trodden grass.

8  Let them be as the slimy track of the snail, ♦
like the untimely birth that never sees the sun.

9  Before ever their pots feel the heat of the thorns, ♦
green or blazing, let them be swept away.

10  The righteous will be glad when they see God's vengeance; ♦
they will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.

11  So that people will say,

'Truly, there is a harvest for the righteous;' ♦
truly, there is a God who judges in the earth.’

Refrain:  *The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice.*

Living God,

deliver us from a world without justice

and a future without mercy;

in your mercy, establish justice,

and in your justice, remember the mercy

revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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