

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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