

Leader: Lord, can You see me? Lord, can You hear me?

People: The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;
Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

Leader: How can I not? Since I was a boy, my life has been one calamity after another! And now for the second time in my life, I find myself bound and thrown into the pit!

People: The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is young.

Let him sit alone in silence,
for the LORD has laid it on him.

Let him bury his face in the dust—
there may yet be hope.

Leader: Hope? What hope? My own brothers sold me as a slave! The man whom I served faithfully and honestly in all things even though a slave, has falsely accused me and thrown me here with the criminals. How can I yet hope in a world without justice?

People: You may offer your cheek to one who would strike you,
and be filled with disgrace.

For men are not cast off
by the Lord forever.

Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to the children of men.

To crush underfoot
all prisoners in the land,

to deny a man his rights
before the Most High,

to deprive a man of justice—
would not the Lord see such things?

Leader: I know, Lord, I know you are faithful even in my affliction. I have tried to be as faithful, I have served my fellow prisoners here and the warden as well. Even so, they do not remember me. No, I am alone. I am forgotten.

People: "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.