

Confession – Death’s Shadow

Leader: We walk in the vale of death’s shadow.
Our deeds are unjust and bear no fruit.
Our disobediences are secret, hidden from sight.
Darkness lies over your land and your people stumble.
Our hearts are beating but only for ourselves.
We have only pity for those who have less.
We have only anger at those who have more.
We cannot spare compassion for those with whom we disagree.
Our eyes are open but we cannot see.
We are blind to the neighbor beside us.
Unwilling to look on those different from us.
Refusing to lift our gaze beyond the ground at our feet.
We anoint the unworthy.
We put our hope in the surface of things.
We doubt and question those who speak truth.
We blame others for what we cannot see.
Lord, hear our prayer.

(silence)

*All: The Lord is our shepherd,
We shall not want.
In grass meadows, the Lord makes us lie down,
by quiet waters guides us.
Our life the Lord brings back.
The Lord leads us on pathways of justice.
Though we walk in the vale of death’s shadow,
We fear no harm,
for you are with us.
Your rod and your staff—
it is they that console us.
You set out a table before us
in the face of our foes.
You moisten our heads with oil,
our cup overflows.*

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