

I hate your holy days  
and despise your festivals...

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I am not moved by your solemn gatherings.  
Your offerings are rejected...

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Spare me the sounds of your hymns,  
and let the music of your lutes fall silent;  
I am not listening.

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Rather let justice well up like water,  
let righteousness flow like a mighty stream."

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I starved myself, and you paid me no attention.  
I will tell you why:

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Because you fast for personal gain, and oppress all your laborers!

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To free the oppressed and put an end to evil.  
To share your bread with the hungry...

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Then, when you call, I will answer;  
When you cry, I will say: Here I am.

From *The Hebrew Prophets—Selections Annotated and Explained*, Translation and Annotation by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Skylight Paths Publishing, 2004

