

# SHABBAT: EVENING PRAYERS

## SHABBAT: EARLY MA'ARIV

### Shabbat: Ideal Time for Ma'ariv

The ideal time for *ma'ariv* on Friday night is whenever will make everyone (or most people!) happy. It can be any time from *plag ha'mincha* (1 1/4 *halachic hours* before sunset), until 72 minutes before sunrise, but should properly be said before midnight.

### Saying Ma'ariv at Plag HaMincha

You may say ma'ariv on Friday afternoon (*erev Shabbat*) as early as *plag ha'mincha* (1 1/4 *halachic hours* before sunset), as long as you say *mincha* before saying ma'ariv. So, if it is now *plag ha'mincha*, you may say *mincha* and then follow it as soon as you wish with ma'ariv.

**NOTE** On *erev Shabbat*, you do not need to say *mincha* before *plag ha'mincha* in order to say ma'ariv before sunset. This is unlike on weekdays, when you must say *mincha* before *plag* in order to say *ma'ariv* before sunset.

### Answering Kedusha If You Accepted Shabbat

**SITUATION** You have begun *Shabbat* early and you are at a *minyan* where they are saying *kedusha* for Friday.

**WHAT TO DO** Reply to *kedusha*.

### Beginning Shabbat Early When Friday Is Rosh Chodesh

**SITUATION** You begin *Shabbat* early when *Rosh Chodesh* falls on Friday.

**WHAT TO DO** Do not say *ya'aleh v'yavo* in *ma'ariv* (along with the normal *Shabbat* prayers).

## KABBALAT SHABBAT

### WHEN TO SAY KABBALAT SHABBAT

#### Start Kabbalat Shabbat Ideally before Sunset

*Kabbalat Shabbat* should ideally be started before sunset, and you should ideally get to *bo'i challa* at about sunset time. But you may start *Kabbalat Shabbat* after sunset and even after dark.

#### Latest Time To Say Kabbalat Shabbat

The latest time to finish saying *Kabbalat Shabbat* is before daybreak on Saturday morning.

#### Kabbalat Shabbat and Jewish Festivals

*Kabbalat Shabbat* is mostly omitted when *Shabbat* falls on:

- *Jewish festivals*,
- *Chol ha'moed*, and
- Right after the last day of a *Jewish festival*.

On these days, only *Mizmor shir...* and *Adonai malach...* are said.

## LECHA DODI

### Directions for Lecha Dodi

When saying *Lecha Dodi*:

- Face your normal direction for the first stanzas;
- For bo'i v'shalom, ideally, face the entrance to the synagogue (but the common practice is to face away from the aron kodesh).

## VAYECHULU

### Saying VaYechulu with Others

Friday night, it is a nice custom for men to say *va'yechulu* with at least one other man. It is best (but not required) to say *va'yechulu* with the entire minyan.

**REASON** The idea is that we are attesting (with other people, as in a court) to God's having created the world.