

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.