WHAT TO PRAY: SET PRAYERS: AVINU MALKEINU TO PSALMS

INTRODUCTION TO AVINU MALKEINU TO PSALMS

Introduction to Avinu Malkeinu to Psalms

It was not traditional for women or girls to say any of *shacharit* after the *amida*, other than saying *alenu*.

AVINU MALKEINU

When To Say Avinu Malkeinu

Say *avinu malkeinu*, even if you are praying by yourself, after *amida* of *shacharit* and *mincha* on:

- Public fast days, and
- Between *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur*.

Avinu Malkeinu on Tzom Gedalia

On *Tzom Gedalia*, in *avinu malkeinu*, say *katveinu* (not *zachreinu*).

TORAH READING

TORAH READING: OFFERING/DECLINING ALIYA

Consecutive Aliyot for Family Members

Consecutive *aliyot* (going up to the *Torah* during *Torah* reading) should not be given to brothers or to a father and son unless the *aliyot* are from different *Torah* scrolls. This is a custom.

Declining an Aliya

You should not decline an *aliya*, if one is offered to you.

TORAH READING: THE BIMA

Shortest Route to Bima

When you go up to the *Torah*, take the shortest route to the *bima*. This is a non-binding custom, not a *halacha*.

Stand on Bima after Aliya

After getting an *aliya* to the *Torah*, stand on the *bima* until the next *aliya* has ended. This is to show respect for the *Torah* and not appear to be running away.

Returning to your Seat after Aliya

When you go back to your seat after an *aliya* to the *Torah*, take the longer way around the *bima*--even if it is inconvenient or you want to avoid someone who is along the way back to your seat.

TORAH READING: SAYING TORAH BLESSINGS

When Saying Torah Blessing

When called to the *Torah*, either:

- Say the blessing while looking to the side of the *Torah*, or
- Roll the *Torah* together before you say the blessing.

How Loud To Say Torah Blessings

Say the blessings over the *Torah* loudly enough for everyone to hear and respond "*amen*."

TORAH READING: WHAT TO DO WHILE ON BIMA

Torah Reading: What To Do While on Bima

The *oleh* (person who gets the *aliya*) should lightly hold on to the handle of the *Torah*.
The *oleh* should read the *Torah* quietly along with the reader (*ba'al koreh*)**.**

TORAH READING: ALIYA DONATION

Donation after Aliya

If you receive an *aliya* to the *Torah* on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festival* mornings, it is customary give a donation to the *synagogue*, but you are not required to do so by *halacha* (and you may not give the donation ON *Shabbat*!).

NOTE A *synagogue* may request a donation on *Shabbat* or *Jewish festivals* from someone who has received an *aliya* on *Shabbat* and may give that person a card to mail in after *Shabbat* has ended.

NOTE There is no expectation of giving a donation for *aliyot* on weekdays or at *mincha* on *Shabbat*.

MOURNER'S KADDISH

Responding to Mourner's Kaddish

When answering mourner's *kaddish*, respond after the person who you hear first.

Late in Joining Mourner's Kaddish

SITUATION All mourners should say *kaddish* in unison. You are a mourner. When you go to *minyan*, the other mourners are already saying mourner's *kaddish*.

WHAT TO DO You may join in as long as the other mourners have not yet said *Yihei shmei*. But you should join the other mourners wherever they are in the *kaddish* and not start from the beginning on your own.

More on Mourner's Kaddish

See Mourner's *Kaddish*.

U'VA L'TZION

Kadosh in U'Va L'Tzion with the Minyan

Say *kadosh* three times in *u'va l'tzion* together with the *minyan* in order to mimic the angels who say *kadosh* together with other angels.

NOTE You should interrupt what you are saying as long as it is permissible to do so, such as before *baruch she'amar* or after you have finished your *amida*.

HALLEL

Saying Hallel with a Minyan

When saying half- and full *Hallel*:

- It is preferable to say half-*hallel* with a *minyan*.
- You do not need to say full *hallel* with a *minyan*.

Order of Prayers with Hallel

To say *hallel* on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals*:

- You do not need to say full *hallel* immediately after *shacharit*.
- You may say *musaf* and/or *hallel* after *mincha*.
- Once it is time for *mincha*, you must say *mincha* before saying *musaf* or *hallel* (if you have not said *musaf* or *hallel* yet).

Timing of Hallel and Musaf

You may say *hallel* and *musaf* until sunset.

Hodu in Hallel

In *hallel*, the congregation repeats the line "*Hodu*…" after each of the four lines that the prayer leader says. Then the congregation says the next line before the prayer leader says it.

NOTE The congregation does not say the line "*Hodu*... before the leader first says it.

BIRKAT HACHODESH

Announcing the New Month

Each month (except before *Rosh Hashana)*, we say the blessing over the new month (*birkat ha'chodesh)*. On *Shabbat* morning preceding the new moon, at the end of *Torah* reading, we announce the coming of the new month *(Rosh Chodesh)*, including:

- The name of the month.
- The day and time the new moon will appear in Jerusalem.
- The day of the week that begins the new month (and sometimes the last day of the previous month).

We say some prayers that ask for good health, prosperity, and other good things.

Announcing Two-Day Rosh Chodesh Starting Shabbat

If *Rosh Chodesh* will be two days starting next *Shabbat*, say "*Yihiyeh b'yom Shabbat kodesh ul'macharato b'yom rishon*."

TACHANUN

Shacharit: Tachanun: How To Say

See the *Tachanun* Section in How To Pray in *Synagogue*.

Shacharit: Tachanun: When Not To Say

Tachanun is related to judgment. *Tachanun* is NOT said at times of *din*/judgment:

- At night,
- On *Tish'a B'Av*,
- In a house of mourning, and
- *Yom Kippur*.

Tachanun is also NOT said at times of *simcha*/happiness:
At *mincha* before (and certainly not on**):**

- *Shabbat*,
- *Jewish festivals*,
- *Rosh Hashana*, and
- *Rosh Chodesh*.

At any prayer service on:

- *Isru chag* (the day after each of the *Jewish festivals*),
- Entire month of *Nisan*.

REASON *Nisan* has more than 15 days that we omit *tachanun*, and once we omit it for most of the month, we don't say it at all.

- All of *Chanuka*, *Purim*, *Shushan Purim*, *Tu B'Shvat*, *Rosh Chodesh*, and from *Rosh Chodesh Sivan* until the day after *Shavuot*.
- *Tishrei* from *shacharit* before *Yom Kippur* until after *Simchat Torah* (*Shmini Atzeret* in *Eretz Yisrael*). Resume saying *tachanun*:
  - Second day of *Cheshvan*, or
  - Day after *isru chag* of *Simchat Torah* (this is the more prevalent custom among *Ashkenazim*). Each person should follow his or her family or community custom.

Any time these people are present in your *minyan* (or in any other *minyan* in the building) either before a circumcision or while still involved in the *brit* or meal:

- *Mohel*,
- *Sandak*, or
- Father of a boy having his circumcision.

NOTE This even applies to *mincha* if the *brit* will take place after *mincha*.

Any time a groom is present during the first week after marriage.

PSALM OF THE DAY/SHIR SHEL YOM

Shacharit: Psalm of the Day/Shir Shel Yom: Daytime

You may fulfill your requirement of saying Psalm of the Day (*shir shel yom*) only during the daytime.

PSALM 27/L'DAVID ADONAI ORI V'YISH'I

When To Say Psalm 27/L'David Adonai Ori V'Yish'i

Begin saying L'David *Adonai* ori v'yish'i (Psalm 27) on the first day (at night) of *Elul*, not the first day of *Rosh Chodesh Elul* (the 30th of *Av*). The last day to say this Psalm is 22nd of *Tishrei* (*Shmini Atzeret*). This Psalm is recited twice daily, in *shacharit* after *shir shel yom* and in ma'ariv after *alenu*, including on *Shabbat* and *Jewish festivals*.

ALENU

Who Should Say Alenu

Any Jew who happens to be in a *synagogue* should say *alenu* with the *minyan*, even if he is not joining the *minyan* for that prayer service.

When To Say Alenu

There is no time limit on when *alenu* may be said. *Alenu* should be said after each prayer service.

PSALMS/TEHILIM

Value of Saying Tehilim

The main value of saying *tehilim* is not in saying the *tehilim* themselves, but in the prayer said AFTER saying the *tehilim* (for someone to get well, for employment, etc.). The saying of *tehilim* strengthens the prayer enormously.

Concluding Tehilim with Yehi Ratzon of Refa'einu

If you say *Psalms*/*tehilim* for a sick person, you should conclude with the *yehi ratzon* that is sometimes added in *shemoneh esrei* in *refa'einu*.

Tehilim Additions to Regular Prayers

*Rabbi*s may have their congregations add *Psalms*/*tehilim* or other prayers to standard services.

When To Say Tehilim

Both genders may say *tehilim* at night without restriction on which *tehilim* may be said; they may be said all night (or day).

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