

בְּרַחוּ

Barchu

The Barchu comes towards the beginning of the service before the Sh'ma.

Barchu comes from the root vet resh chaf which means to bless.

The Barchu prayer is a signal – it calls the congregation together, announcing that the main part of the prayer service is about to get started. Before prayer books existed, this was the prayer that would gather everyone together to let them know it was time to pray. In many congregations the leader of the service says the first line while bowing. Then the congregation recites the second line in response while bowing too.

LEADER

בְּרַחוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ .

CONGREGATION

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד .

LEADER

Barchu et Adonai hamvorach.

CONGREGATION

Baruch Adonai hamvorach l'olam va-ed.

Bless the Infinite, the blessed One!

Blessed is the Infinite, the blessed one, now and forever!