

שְׁמַע

Sh'ma

The Sh'ma comes after the Barchu towards the beginning of a service. Sh'ma means listen. The word echad at the end of the first line means one. The first line of the Sh'ma declares our belief in one God and the second line praises God's name. It is such an important prayer that many people recite it with their eyes closed so they can concentrate completely on this pledge.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Listen up Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is one.
Blessed is the glorious name of God forever and ever.