

Approaching the Ark



Merciful and gracious God, wherever we are, we stand in Your presence; yet, as we approach Your holy Ark on this afternoon of repentance, we yearn for a special sense of Your nearness.

As the day wanes and our strength ebbs, we draw upon all our resources of spirit to sustain us.

We turn again to Your Torah for inspiration and for instruction, for wisdom and for hope.

For Your Torah, O Lord, provides bread for hungry hearts, and water for our thirsting spirits.

Your Torah nourishes us at all times, as it sustained our ancestors throughout the ages.

*Through Torah You teach us how to live;
And through Torah You give us a purpose for which to live.*

Your Mitzvot give direction to our lives;
Your teachings give meaning to our lives;
Your love gives sanctity to our lives.

*As we seek to return to You, in sincerity and in truth,
we pray for a renewed will to study Your Torah,
for greater wisdom to understand it,
and for deeper loyalty to live by it.*

May we and all future generations of the household of Israel worship You gratefully and serve You faithfully.

*May our study of Torah ennoble our thoughts,
and may all of our deeds be worthy of Your blessing.*