

Yom Kippur Home Service

(Because Yom Kippur is a fast day, the Erev Yom Kippur meal must technically be eaten before Yom Kippur and its fast begin. The candles are therefore lit after the meal to mark the formal beginning of Yom Kippur and the beginning of the fast. Kiddush is also not said at this meal because kiddush can only be said after the lighting of the candles. Once the candles are lit, however, the fast has begun and so the wine for kiddush and hence the kiddush are not appropriate.)

MOTZI

Before the Meal

According to Maimonides (of the twelfth century), "Free will is given to every human being. If we wish to incline ourselves towards goodness and righteousness, we are free to do so; and if we wish to incline ourselves towards evil, we are also free to do that. By our own faculty of intelligence and understanding we can distinguish between good and evil, doing as we choose. The power for this choice between good and evil is altogether in our hands."

As we approach Yom Kippur we pray for the power to make worthy choices all through this year. May our hands do good. May our hands always lead us towards blessing.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם המוציא לחם מן הארץ.

Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai Eloheinu meh-lech ha-o-lam ha-mo-tzi leh-chem min ha-a-retz.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

LIGHTING OF HOLIDAY (AND SABBATH) LIGHTS

After the Meal

The holiest day of the year is about to begin. Let us use it well. May it be for each one of us a day of renewal. May it help us overcome what is evil in us and strengthen what is good. May it bring us closer to our real selves and make us more loyal to our people and our traditions.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו
במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של (שבת ושל) יום הכפורים.

Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai Eloheinu meh-lech ha-o-lam a-sher ki-d'sha-nu b'mits-vo-tav v'tsi-va-nu l'had-lik neir shel (Shabbat v'shel) Yom ha-Kippurim.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy with commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of (Shabbat and) Yom Kippur.

SHEH-HE-CHE-YA-NU

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שהחינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai Eloheinu meh-lech ha-o-lam, sheh-he-che-ya-nu, v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

May each of us be sealed in the
Book of Life for a good year!

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the great festivals of the Jewish year. They draw us to the synagogue with their promise of repentance and new beginnings, although each festival also offers opportunities to bring something precious into our homes. The meals that precede services can themselves also become special, and it is in that spirit that these pages are offered to you and your family. Shana Tova!

A final note: Tzedakah is always part of Jewish life. As it is traditional to give tzedakah at times of joy such as births and weddings, it is also a Jewish tradition to give tzedakah on the occasion of each of the festivals, including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Helping promote any worthy cause may be one more way for you and your family to start out the New Year.

