

Erev Yom Kippur Home Ritual

(Because Yom Kippur is a fast day, the Erev Yom Kippur meal must technically be eaten before Yom Kippur and its fast begins. The candles are therefore lit after the meal to mark the formal beginning of Yom Kippur and the beginning of the fast. Kiddush is 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.)

Begin your home service with each person contributing to Tzedakah (a box may be placed on your table).

We are taught, "Happy are those who consider the needy." Eternal God, we hereby fulfill the Mitzvah of Tzedakah as we begin this day of holiness. We shall not forget the words of your prophet, who called on us to provide for those who need aid, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the widow and the orphan. We take to heart the injunction "All Israel is responsible one for the other," as we place our contributions into our family tzedekah box. May we, together with the whole household of Israel, be mindful of the needs of others, sharing with them the fruits of our labor, helping to sustain them in body and soul. And may we, ourselves, grow in understanding and in compassion as we give our tzedakah funds.

(Challah is raised)



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz.

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

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEAL

These flames we kindle are a symbol of Your eternal flame. May they open our eyes to the good we must do, moving us to work for the betterment of our world so that through our hands the light of Your presence may be felt by all those we touch. (The candles are lit, and then the blessing is recited.)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל (שַׁבָּת) וְשֶׁל יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel (Shabbat) v'shel yom hakippurim. 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.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam she'hecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has granted us this New Year by giving us life, by sustaining us and by enabling us to reach this season.

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.

O God, Creator of mercy and forgiveness, we pray that the Gates of Heaven will be open for us on this Yom Kippur. Hear our prayers, and accept our supplications. O God, pardon our transgressions against You, even as we forgive all who may have transgressed against us in the year now ended. Help us to purify our hearts that we might serve You in truth.