

The background of the central text is a photograph of a sunset over a city. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, some with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

HIGH HOLY DAYS

HOME OBSERVANCE

GUIDE

2026 / 5787

~Blessings

~Customs

~Candle Lighting Times

Rosh Hashanah at Home

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday, September 11
and concludes at sundown Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Tzedakah

We enter the New Year conscious of our blessings and our obligation
to share them. We give tzedakah with intention:



Dear God, help us to turn –
from callousness to sensitivity, from hostility to love,
from pettiness to purpose, from envy to contentment,
from carelessness to discipline, from fear to faith.
Turn us around, O God, and bring us back toward You.

Renew our lives, as at the beginning.
And turn us toward each other, God, for in isolation there is no life.
~Jack Riemer (Mahzor Hadash)



Festival Candles

Rosh Hashanah begins each night
with the lighting of (Shabbat and) yom tov candles.

It is customary to light a long-burning or yahrzeit candle as well (without a blessing), so fire will
be available to transfer a flame for lighting candles or cooking on Saturday night/Sunday.

Light festival candles at home on Friday before 7:12 pm
and on Saturday after dark (8:11 pm), reciting the blessing:
(include the words in parentheses on Shabbat):

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sheer kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav
ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner shel (Shabbat v')yom tov.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל (שַׁבָּת ו)יוֹם טוֹב.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space
who has made us holy through mitzvot
by instructing us to light the (Sabbath and) festival lights.

Blessing Children

On Festivals and Shabbat, parents bless their children:

For daughters:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּסָרָה רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

Ye-sim-ech E-lo-him ke-Sarah,
Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah

Ye-va-rech-e-cha Adonai ve-yish-me-re-cha.
Ya-er Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha viy-chu-ne-ka.
Yisa Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha,
ve-ya-sem le-cha sha-lom.

For sons:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה.

Ye-sim-cha E-lo-him
ke-Ephraim v'chi-Menashe

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ;
יֵאָר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶךָ;
יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

For all:

May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.
May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.
May God bless you and protect you. May God's face shine toward you and
show you favor. May God look favorably upon you and grant you peace.

Kiddush

Festive meals on Rosh Hashanah include a special Kiddush

On Shabbat we begin with Vayechulu

Vayechulu hashamayim vecha'aretz vechol tzeva'am.

*Vayechal elohim bayom hashvi'i melachto asher
asah. Vayishbot bayom hashvi'i mikol melachto
asher asah.*

*Vayevarech elohim et yom hashvi'i vayekadesh oto.
Ki vo shavat mikol melachto asher barah elohim
la'asot.*

And the heaven and the earth, and all they contain, were completed. On the seventh day
God finished the work, ceasing from all work on the seventh day. Then God blessed the
seventh day, making it holy--for on it, God ceased from all the work of creation.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam bo-rei p'ri ha-ga-fen*

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who creates fruit of the vine.

(include the words in parentheses on Shabbat):

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam, a-she ba-char ba-nu mi-kol am
ve-ro-me-ma-nu mi-kol la-shon ve-ki-de-sha-nu
be-mitz-vo-tav. Va-ti-ten la-nu Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu
be-a-ha-va et (yom ha-Shabbat hazeh v'et) yomha-zi-
ka-ron ha zeh. Yom (Zichron) te-ru-a (b'ahavah) mik-ra
ko-desh ze-cher li-tzi-at mitz-ra-yim. Ki va-nu va-char-
ta ve-o-ta-nu ki-dash-ta mi-kol ha-a-mim
u-dvar-cha e-met ve-ka-yam la-ad.
Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai me-lech al kol ha-a-retz
me-ka-desh (haShabbat v') yis-ra-el ve-yom ha-zi-ka-ron.*

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has chosen
and distinguished us by sanctifying our lives with the commandments. With love, You
have bestowed on us, Adonai our God, this (Shabbat and this) Day of Remembrance,
a day for (remembering) the shofar sound (with love), a day for holy assembly and for
recalling the Exodus from Egypt. For You have chosen us, sanctifying us among all
people, and Your faithful word endures forever. Blessed are you, Adonai, ruler of all
the earth, who makes (Shabbat), the people Israel and the Day of Remembrance holy.

After Kiddush, She-hechiyanu is recited:

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-manu
ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

וַיְכַלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל צְבָאָם.

וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ
אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְכָל
מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה.

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ
אֹתוֹ. כִּי בּו שְׁבֹת מְכָל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר
בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְרִי הַגֶּפֶן.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל עַם וְרוֹמַמְנוּ מִכָּל לָשׁוֹן,
וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וַתֵּתֵן לָנוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ
בְּאַהֲבָה אֶת (יוֹם הַשְּׁבֹת הַזֶּה וְאֶת) יוֹם
הַזִּכְרוֹן הַזֶּה יוֹם (זְכוֹרוֹן) תְּרוּעָה
(בְּאַהֲבָה), מְקַרָּא קִדְּשׁ, זִכָּר לִיצִיאת
מִצְרָיִם. כִּי בָנוּ בְּחֵרָת וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ
מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וּדְבַרְךָ אֱמֶת וְקִים לְעֵד.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', מֶלֶךְ עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ מְקַדֵּשׁ
(הַשְּׁבֹת וְ) יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיוֹם הַזִּכְרוֹן.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Handwashing and HaMotzi

After washing hands, recite the blessing:

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam a-sheer kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu al ne-ti-lat ya-da-yim.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת
יָדַיִם.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has made us holy through mitzvot by instructing us to wash our hands.

Recite this blessing over two round challot:

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who brings forth bread from the earth.



Apples and Honey

Pick up a slice of apple, dip it in honey, and say:

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam bo-rei pe-ri ha-eitz.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who brings forth fruit from the tree.



Eat the apple dipped in honey and recite this prayer:

Ye-hi ra-tzon mil-fa-ne-cha, Adonai E-lo-hei-nu v'E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu, Yshe-te-cha-desh a-lei-nu sha-nah to-vah u-me-tu-kah.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ
ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
שֶׁתַּחַדֵּשׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה.

May it be Your will, Adonai our God and the God of our ancestors, to renew for us a good and sweet year

On the second evening of Rosh Hashanah, many have the custom of eating a new fruit at this point in the meal, so that we can say Shechianu again on the second night. This fruit is often a pomegranate. The meal ends with birkat hamazon, the blessing after meals, with the appropriate insertions for Rosh Hashanah.



Simanim--Good Omens

Abaye said: ...A person should always be accustomed to seeing these on Rosh Hashanah... as each of these grows quickly and serves as a positive omen for one's actions during the coming year."

—Talmud Bavli, Horayot 12a

Rosh Hashanah Simanim are the special foods served on the first night of Rosh Hashanah,. We say a short prayer about the symbolism of each of the following foods before eating them, as we pray for the blessings of a sweet year!



Dates: The Hebrew word for date is תמר (tamar). The word תם (tam) means to finish, end, or cease to exist. Hold up the date and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that there come an end to our enemies, haters and those who wish evil upon us*



Pumpkin/Gourd: The Aramaic word for gourd is קרא (k'ra), which in Hebrew means to announce. It is related in sound to the word קרע (kara), meaning to tear. Hold up a piece of pumpkin or gourd and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that the evil of our verdicts be ripped, and that our merits be announced before you.*



Beets: The Hebrew word for beet is סלק (selek) . The word silek, spelled the exact same way in Hebrew, means to depart or retreat. Hold up a beet and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that our enemies, haters and those who wish evil upon us shall depart.*

Simanim--Good Omens



Carrots: The Hebrew word for carrot, גזר (gezer), sounds very much like g'zar, the Hebrew word for decree. Eating them on Rosh Hashanah is meant to express our desire that God will nullify all negative decrees against us. Hold up a carrot and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that all negative decrees against us be nullified.*



Leeks/Scallions/Chives: The Aramaic word for a leek is כרתי (karati). In Hebrew, the word כרת (karet) means to cut down or cut off. Hold up a leek and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that our enemies, haters, and those who wish evil upon us shall be cut down.*



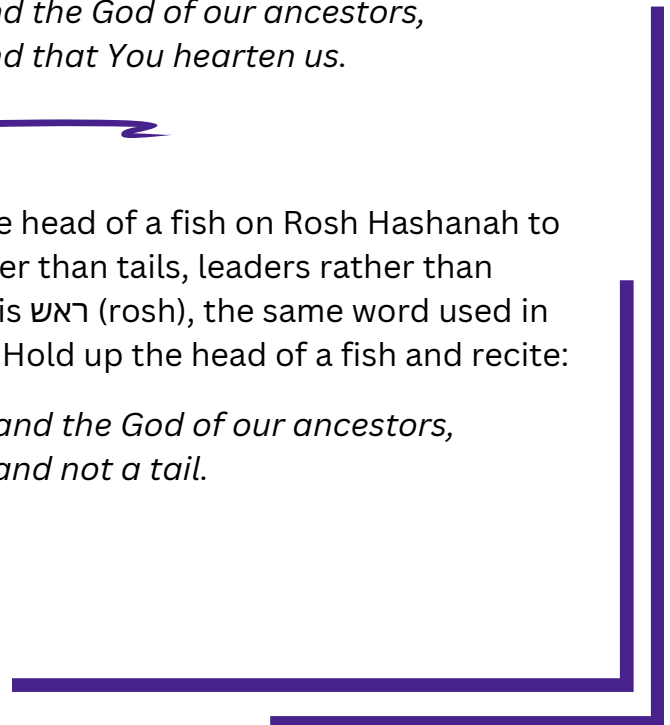
String Beans or Another Light Colored Bean: The Aramaic word used for this type of bean is רוביא (rubiah). The Hebrew word לוביא (lubiah) means to increase. Another pronunciation for this type of bean may be לב (lev), meaning heart. Hold up a string bean and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that our merits shall increase and that You hearten us.*



Fish Head: Some communities use the head of a fish on Rosh Hashanah to symbolize the desire to be heads rather than tails, leaders rather than followers. The Hebrew word for head is ראש (rosh), the same word used in Rosh Hashanah, the head of the year. Hold up the head of a fish and recite:

*May it be Your will Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors,
that we be a head and not a tail.*



Yom Kippur at Home

Kol Nidre is Sunday night, September 20.

Yom Kippur concludes at dark on Monday, September 2026.

Yom Kippur is the holiest and most solemn day of the year. Its central theme is atonement and reconciliation. Every act, every ritual, every observance and every prayer heightens and accentuates the meaning of the day. Yom Kippur is, therefore, the only festival during which the prohibition of work is as complete as on the Sabbath. Additional prohibitions include the abstention from eating, drinking, bathing, anointing ourselves, wearing leather soled shoes and having intimate relations.

Prior to beginning the fast of Yom Kippur, it is traditional to eat a festive meal so that one is prepared for the fast ahead.

Tzedakah

Teshuva, tefillah, and tzedakah have transformational power in our lives. We give tzedakah on erev Yom Kippur to accompany the work of teshuva and tefillah with which we will engage during this season. On Yom Kippur, we experience our own ephemeral nature; giving tzedakah on erev Yom Kippur, we remind ourselves that nothing is truly ours. In the words of Rabbenu Yona:

*I do not give of myself, not of my body and not of my property,
but I give of the Holy Blessed One, for all belongs to God.*



Festival and Yahrzeit Candles

It is customary to light yahrzeit candles, small candles of remembrance for your loved ones, prior to the lighting of the yom tov candles at which time the actual observance of Yom Kippur commences.

Candles are lit as for other holidays before Kol Nidre services and no later than 6:55 pm, using the following blessings

:

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam a-sheer kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav, ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner shel yom ha-ki-pu-rim.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has made us holy through mitzvot by instructing us to light the Day of Atonement lights.

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-manu ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
שֶׁהֵחִינּוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעֵנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessing Children

For daughters:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּסָרָה רַבֵּקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

*Ye-sim-ech E-lo-him ke-Sarah,
Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah*

For sons:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה.

*Ye-sim-cha E-lo-him
ke-Ephraim v'ki-Menashe*

For all:

*Ye-va-rech-e-cha Adonai ve-yish-me-re-cha.
Ya-er Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha viy-chu-ne-ka.
Yisa Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha,
ve-ya-sem le-cha sha-lom.*

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ;
יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶּךָ;
יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיָשֵׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.
May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.
May God bless you and protect you.
May God's face shine toward you and show you favor.
May God look favorably upon you and grant you peace.

Sukkot at Home

The first two days of chag Sukkot are sundown Friday, September 25 through sundown Sunday, September 27, 2026. The holiday continues for the rest of the week, concluding with Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

The third of the pilgrimage festivals, Sukkot's prominent ritual features are to build and then dwell in a Sukkah throughout the eight days and to own and bless the lulav and etrog each day of the holiday except on Shabbat.



Ushpizin --Guests

During Sukkot it is customary to invite visitors to eat in your Sukkah. The inspiration for hospitality to guests goes back to Abraham. He would sit outside waiting for the opportunity to invite dusty wayfarers into the shade of his tent, and then run to prepare a meal of the choicest ingredients.

In addition to people invited in advance, we perform a short ceremony to welcome special Ushpizin (Aramaic for “guests”) from our Jewish texts. The full text for the invitation that they join us, including prayers that our fulfillment of the mitzvah of sukkah will be worthy of Divine favor, is printed in a full daily/festival siddur. Then, on the first day we say, “I invite to my meal the exalted guests, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David. May it please you, Abraham, my exalted guest, that all the other exalted guests dwell with me and with you – Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David.” On each day, a different one of the seven is singled out, in order. We can also invite the matriarchs and other important women of Israel – Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Leah, Miriam, Abigail, and Esther – either paired with the men or on their own.

Feeding others in our Sukkah serves as a reminder of our duty to give tzedakah. It is said that the Ushpizin would refuse to enter a sukkah where the poor are not welcome.



Festival Candles

The first days of Sukkot begin each night with the lighting of (Shabbat and) yom tov candles.

It is customary to light a long-burning or yahrzeit candle as well (without a blessing) so fire will be available to transfer for cooking or lighting candles on Saturday night/Sunday.

Light candles at home on Friday before 6:46 pm and on Saturday after dark (7:44 pm), reciting two blessings (include the words in parentheses on Shabbat):

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam
a-sheer kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav,
ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner shel (Shabbat v')yom tov.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל (שַׁבָּת ו) יוֹם טוֹב.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has made us holy through mitzvot by instructing us to light the (Shabbat and) festival lights.

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu
me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu,
ve-ki-ye-manu ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
שֶׁחֵיֵינוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

Blessing Children

For daughters:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רַבֵּקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

Ye-sim-ech E-lo-him ke-Sarah,
Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah

For sons:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה.

Ye-sim-cha E-lo-him
ke-Ephraim v'chi-Menashe

For all:

Ye-va-rech-e-cha Adonai ve-yish-me-re-cha.
Ya-er Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha viy-chu-ne-ka.
Yisa Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha,
ve-ya-sem le-cha sha-lom.

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וַיְשִׁמְרֶךָ;
יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ;
יֵשָׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם.

May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.
May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.
May God bless you and protect you.
May God's face shine toward you and show you favor.
May God look favorably upon you and grant you peace.



Kiddush

It is ideal to eat all meals while in the sukkah. While it is wonderful to have your own sukkah in which to dwell, it is highly encouraged to seize upon the opportunity to say the blessings of sukkah wherever possible, such as in the sukkah at the shul. The kiddush said on the first two days is the kiddush for festivals using the appropriate insertions for Sukkot.

On Shabbat we begin with Vayechulu

Vayechulu hashamayim vecha'aretz vechol tzeva'am.

Vayechal elohim bayom hashvi'i melachto asher asah. Vayishbot bayom hashvi'i mikol melachto asher asah.

Vayevarech elohim et yom hashvi'i vayekadesh oto. Ki vo shavat mikol melachto asher barah elohim la'asot.

And the heaven and the earth, and all they contain, were completed. On the seventh day God finished the work, ceasing from all work on the seventh day. Then God blessed the seventh day, making it holy--for on it, God ceased from all the work of creation.

(Include the words in parentheses on Shabbat):

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam bo-rei p'ri ha-ga-fen.

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer ba-char ba-nu mi-kol am ve-ro-me-ma-nu mi-kol la-shon ve-ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav. Va-ti-ten la-nu Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu be-a-ha-va (shabbatot lim'nucha u') moda-im l'simcha, chagim u'zmanim l'sasson, et yom (ha-shabbat ha-zeh v'et yom) hag ha-su-kot ha-zeh. Z'man sim-cha-tei-nu, (b'ahava) mik-ra ko-desh, ze-cher li-tzi-yat mitz-ra-yim. Ki va-nu va-char-ta ve-o-ta-nu ki-dash-ta mi-kol ha-a-mim, (v'shabbat) u-mo-a-dei kod-she-cha be-sim-cha uv-sa-son hin-chal-ta-nu. Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai me-ka-desh (ha-shabbat v') yis-ra-el ve-ha-ze-ma-nim.

וַיְכַלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל צְבָאָם.

וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ
אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה. וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְכָל
מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה.

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ
אֹתוֹ. כִּי בּו שְׁבֹת מְכָל מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר
בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא
פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל עַם וְרוֹמַמְנוּ מִכָּל
לָשׁוֹן, וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וַתֵּן לָנוּ ה'
אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה (שְׁבֹתוֹת לְמִנוּחָה ו)
מוֹעֲדִים לְשִׂמְחָה, חַגִּים וְזְמָנִים
לְשִׂשׁוֹן, אֶת יוֹם (הַשְּׁבֹת הַזֶּה וְאֶת
יוֹם) חַג הַסֻּכּוֹת הַזֶּה, זְמַן שְׂמִיחָתְנוּ
(בְּאַהֲבָה) מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, זִכָּר לִיצִיאַת
מִצְרָיִם. כִּי בָנוּ בְּחֵרָתְךָ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתְךָ
מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, (וְשְׁבֹת) וּמוֹעֲדֵי קֹדֶשְׁךָ
(בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרִצּוֹן) בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשִׂשׁוֹן
הַנִּחְלָתְנוּ. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', מְקַדֵּשׁ
(הַשְּׁבֹת ו) יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַזְמָנִים.

Praised are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who creates fruit of the vine.
Praised are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has chosen and distinguished us by sanctifying our lives with Your commandments. Lovingly have You given us (Sabbaths for rest and) this our season for gladness, a day for holy assembly and for recalling the Exodus from Egypt. Thus have You chosen us, sanctifying us among all people, Your faithful word endures forever. Praised are You, Adonai, Ruler of all the earth who sanctifies the (Sabbath and) people Israel and the festivals.

Special Sukkot Blessings

Before sitting down to drink, add the blessing for sitting in the sukkah (include this blessing each time you sit for a meal in a sukkah throughout the week of sukkot):

On the **first night**, the Sukkah blessing comes before the Shechiyanu.

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam a-sher kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav,
ve-tzi-va-nu lei-shev ba-su-kah.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
וצונו לישב בסכה.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of time and space,
who commands us to dwell in the sukkah.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-
lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-
manu ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

On the **second night**, the shechiyanu comes before the Sukkah blessing.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-
nu me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-
ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-manu ve-hi-gi-anu
la-z'man ha-zeh.*

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam a-sher kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav,
ve-tzi-va-nu lei-shev ba-su-kah.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
וצונו לישב בסכה.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of time and space,
who commands us to dwell in the sukkah.

Handwashing and HaMotzi

After washing hands, recite the blessing:

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam a-she-
r kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu al ne-ti-lat ya-da-yim.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has made us holy
through mitzvot by instructing us to wash our hands.

Recite the this blessing over two round challot:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.



The meal ends with birkat hamazon, the blessing after meals, with the appropriate
insertions for Sukkot.

Lulav and Etrog

Lulav and etrog, the four species that are a prominent ritual part of our celebration, are to be held, blessed and shaken each day of the festival except for Shabbat, beginning on the first morning of Sukkot.

To bless the lulav and etrog, begin by holding the lulav with the three branches in your right hand and the etrog in your left hand, at this point with the stem on the top, the pitom (the remnant of the flower) at the bottom. Recite the following blessing:

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam a-sher kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav,
ve-tzi-va-nu al ne-ti-lat lu-lav.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת לוּלָב.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of time and space,
who commands us to take hold of the lulav.



On the first occasion of blessing the lulav, add the following:

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-
lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-
manu ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

The etrog is then turned over with the stem now on the bottom, the pitom on top and together, the four species are waved in the four directions and upward and downward indicating God's presence in every corner of our world.

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah at Home

Shemini Atzeret begins sundown Friday night, October 2; Simchat Torah concludes after dark on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

These are the last two days of Sukkot, yet each has unique aspects of ritual as part of their celebrations. Shemini Atzeret is considered by the Talmud as a 'separate' festival, thus the rituals most prominent on Sukkot, dwelling in the Sukkah and waving the lulav, are no longer part of this day. Candles are lit and a festival meal follows as with the other festival days.

Festival and Yahrzeit Candles

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah begin each night with the lighting of (Shabbat and) yom tov candles.

It is customary to light a long-burning or yahrzeit candle as well (without a blessing), so fire will be available to transfer a flame for lighting candles or cooking on Saturday night/Sunday. We say yizkor on Shemini Atzeret; many have the custom to light a yahrzeit candle to remember loved ones over the holiday.

Light festival candles at home on Friday before 6:12 pm and on Saturday after dark (7:11 pm), reciting two blessings (include the words in parentheses on Shabbat)::

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam
a-sheer kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav, ve-tzi-va-nu
le-had-lik ner shel (Shabbat v')yom tov.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
who has made us holy through mitzvot by instructing us to light the festival lights.

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu
me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-che-ya-nu,
ve-ki-ye-manu ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל (שַׁבָּת ו) יוֹם טוֹב.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

Blessing Children

For daughters:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה רִבְקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.

*Ye-sim-ech E-lo-him ke-Sarah,
Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah*

For sons:

יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה.

*Ye-sim-cha E-lo-him
ke-Ephraim v'chi-Menashe*

For all:

*Ye-va-rech-e-cha Adonai ve-yish-me-re-cha.
Ya-er Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha viy-chu-ne-ka.
Yisa Adonai pa-nav ei-le-cha,
ve-ya-sem le-cha sha-lom.*

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וַיְשִׁמְרֶךָ;
יֵאָר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶךָ;
יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.
May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.
May God bless you and protect you.
May God's face shine toward you and show you favor.
May God look favorably upon you and grant you peace.



Kiddush

Festival meals include a special Kiddush. Insert the words in parentheses on Shabbat.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam bo-rei p'ri ha-ga-fen*

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
בורא פרי הגפן.

Blessed are you Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who creates fruit of the vine.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu
me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher ba-char ba-nu mi-kol
am ve-ro-me-ma-nu mi-kol la-shon ve-ki-de-sha-
nu be-mitz-vo-tav. Va-ti-ten la-nu Adonai, E-lo-
hay-nu be-a-ha-va (shabbatot lim'nucha u')
moda-im l'simcha, chagim u'zmanim l'sasson, et
yom (ha-shabbat ha-zeh v'et yom) hag ha-su-kot
ha-zeh. Z'man sim-cha-tei-nu, (b'ahava) mik-ra
ko-desh, ze-cher li-tzi-yat mitz-ra-yim.
Ki va-nu va-char-ta ve-o-ta-nu ki-dash-ta mi-kol
ha-a-mim, (v'shabbat) u-mo-a-dei kod-she-cha
be-sim-cha uv-sa-son hin-chal-ta-nu. Ba-ruch
a-tah Adonai me-ka-desh (ha-shabbat v')
yis-ra-el ve-ha-ze-ma-nim.*

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר
בחר בנו מכל עם ורוממנו מכל לשון,
וקדשנו במצותיו. ותתן לנו ה' אלהינו
באהבה (שבתות למנוחה ו) מועדים
לשמחה, חגים וזמנים לששון, את יום
(השבת הזה ואת יום) חג העצרת הזה,
זמן שמחתנו (באהבה) מקרא קדש, זכר
ליציאת מצרים. כי בנו בחרת ואותנו
קדשת מכל העמים, (ושבת) ומועדי
קדש (באהבה וברצון) בשמחה ובששון
הנחלתנו. ברוך אתה ה', מקדש (השבת
(ו) ישראל והזמנים.



Praised are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has chosen and distinguished us by sanctifying our lives with Your commandments. Lovingly have You given us (Sabbaths for rest and) this our season for gladness, a day for holy assembly and for recalling the Exodus from Egypt. Thus have You chosen us, sanctifying us among all people, Your faithful word endures forever. Praised are You, Adonai, Ruler of all the earth who sanctifies (Shabbat) the people Israel and the festivals.

After Kiddush, She-hechiyanu is recited:

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam, .she-he-che-ya-nu, ve-ki-ye-manu
ve-hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם,
שהחינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space
for granting us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this moment.

Handwashing and HaMotzi

After washing hands, recite the blessing:

Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam a-sheer kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu al ne-ti-lat ya-da-yim.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space, who has made us holy through mitzvot by instructing us to wash our hands.

Recite the this blessing over two round challot:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, ruler of time and space,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

*Ba-ruch a-tah Adonai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam ha-mo-tzi le-chem min ha-a-retz.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

The meal ends with birkat hamazon, the blessing after meals, with the appropriate insertions for Sukkot.



HIGH HOLY DAYS

2024/5785

Rosh Hashanah	Friday evening - Sunday September 11-13
Kol Nidre Yom Kippur	Sunday evening - Monday September 20-21
Sukkot	Friday evening - Sunday September 25-27
Hol Hamoed Sukkot	Sunday evening-Thursday September 27 - October 1
Hoshanah Rabah	Thursday evening - Friday October 1- 2
Shemini Atzeret	Friday evening - Saturday October 2 - 3
Simchat Torah	Saturday evening - Sunday October 3 - 4

www.Beth-Jacob.org/HH

