

סליחות

SERVICE

FOR

SELICHOT

סְלִיחוֹת Selichot

"A Time for Introspection, A Need for Change"

Ashrei

אָשְׁרִי יוֹשְׁבֵי בְּתַתְּךָ, עַזְּדַי חַלְלוֹךְ סֶלָה:

Ashrei yosh'vei veitecha, od y'hal'lucha Sela.

Happy are they who dwell in Your house, forever will they praise you, Sela.

Chatzi Kaddish

וְתִהְלֵל וְתִקְדַּשׁ שְׁמָה רַבָּא.
בְּעַלְמָא דַי בָּרָא כְּרוּתָה, וְמַלְאָךְ מַלְכוּתָה בְּתַתְּכָבוֹן
וּבְיוֹמָיכָבוֹן וּבְתִי דָכְלָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּעַלְאָ וּבְגַזְמוֹ קָרִיב
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

וְהִיא שְׁמָה רַבָּא מְבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וּלְעַלְמִי עַלְמִיא:

וְתִבְרֹךְ וְיִשְׂתַּבְחֵה וְתִפְאֵר וְתִרְוֹם וְתִעְשֵׂא וְתִתְהַנֵּר
וְתִתְעַלֵּה וְתִהְמַלֵּל שְׁמָה דָקְרוֹשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא לְעַלְאָ מַן
כָל בְּרִכְתָּא וְשִׁירִתָּא תִשְׁבְּחֵתָא וְנִחְמַתָּא, דָאַמִּין
בְּעַלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

May God's name be exalted and hallowed throughout the world that God created, as is God's wish. May God's sovereignty soon be accepted, during our life and the life of all Israel. And let us say Amen.

May God's great name be praised throughout all time.

Glorified and celebrated, lauded and worshipped, exalted and honored, extolled and acclaimed may the Holy One be, praised beyond all song and psalm, beyond all tributes that mortals can utter. And let us say Amen.

History has stopped for a moment this night so that we may gather our thoughts. Soon we shall usher in a New Year. What will it bring to us? How shall we live? How can we prepare to meet its challenges and opportunities, its trials and its struggles?

Psalm 27:41; 121:1-2/ arr. Andrew Bernard

אַחֲת שָׁאַלְתִּי מֵאֵת יְיָ אָזְתָּה אַבְקַשׁ
שִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית-יְיָ כָּל-יְמֵי חַיִּים
לְחוֹזֶת בְּנָעָם-יְיָ וְלִבְקָרֶב בְּחִיכָּלָוּ

אָתָא עַיִּן אֶל-הַחֲרִים מֵאֵין יָבָא עַזְרִי
עַזְרִי מִעֵם יְהוָה עָשָׂה שָׁמַיִם וְאָרֶץ

*Achat sha-al-ti mei-eit Adonai otah avakeish
Shivti b'veit Adonai kol y'mei chayai
Lachazot b'noam Adonai ul'vakeir b'heichalo*

*Esa einai el heharim mei-ayin yavo ezri
Ezri mei-im Adonai oseh shamayim va-aretz*

*One thing I ask of Adonai - for this I yearn:
To dwell in the House of Adonai all the days of my life -
to behold God's beauty, to pray in God's sanctuary.*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. What is the source of my help?
My help comes from Adonai, Maker of heaven and earth.*

Changing/Turning

Now is the time for turning. The leaves are beginning to turn from green to red to orange. The birds are beginning to turn and are heading once more toward the south. The animals are beginning to turn to storing their food for the winter.

For leaves, birds and animals, turning comes instinctively. But for us, turning does not come so easily. It takes an act of will for us to make a turn.

It means breaking with old habits. It means admitting that we have been wrong, and this is never easy. It means losing face; it means starting over again, and this is always painful. It means saying: I am sorry. It means recognizing that we have the ability to change. These things are terribly hard to do. But unless we turn, we will be trapped forever in yesterday's ways.

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. Revive our lives, as at the beginning. And turn us toward each other, God, for in isolation, there is no life.

- Rabbi Jack Riemer

Torah Covers Are Changed

Etz Chayim- Craig Taubman

עַז חַיִם הִיא לְמִתְחַזִּיקִים בָּה, וְתִמְכִיהָ מַאֲשָׁר.
דְּרָכֵיהָ דְּרָכֵי נָעַם, וְכָל נְתִיבוֹתָהָ שָׁלוּם.
הַשְׁבָּנוּ, אָלֵה וְנִשְׁבָּה, חִידְשֵׁת יְמֵינוּ פָּקָדָם.

*Eitz chayim hi l'machazikim bah
V'tom cheha m'ushar
D'racheha darchei noam, v'chol n'tivoteha shalom.
Hashiveinu Adonai, eleicha v'nashuva
Chadeish yameinu k'kedem.*

*It is a tree of life to those who grasp it
Those who cling to it find happiness
Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace
Return us to you Adonai and we shall return
Renew our days as of old*

Should we despair of our being unable to attain perfect purity? We should, if perfection were our goal. However, we are not obliged to be perfect once and for all, but only to rise again and again beyond the level of the self. Perfection is divine, and to make it a goal of humans is to call on humans to be divine. All we can do is try to wring our hearts clean in contrition. Contrition begins with a feeling of shame at our being incapable of disentanglement from the self. To be contrite at our failures is holier than to be complacent in perfection.

- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Enosh - Michael Isaacson

אָנָּשׁ כְּחַצֵּיר וְמַיְוִיל כְּצִיר הַשְׁנָה כְּנוֹצֵץ:
כִּי רַוח עֲבָרָה בָּבוֹ וְאַיִלְוָה וְלְאַיִלְבִּרְעָה עוֹד מַקּוֹמוֹ:
וְחַסְדִּיךְ הַזָּהָה | מַעוֹלָם וְעַד עַוְלָם עַל יְרָאוֹי וְאַדְקָתוֹ
לְבָנָי בְּנִים:

*Enosh kechatzir yamav k'tzitz hasadeh kein yatzitz.
Ki ruach av'rah bo v'einenu v'lo takirenu od m'komo.
V'chesed Adonai mei-olam v'ad olam al y'rei-av
v'tzidkato livnei vanim.*

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and its place knows it no more. But the loving kindness of Adonai is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children. (Ps. 103)

As an owl in the desert screams in the night, so I want to be heard, my God. As a thrush cries as danger nears its nest, so we plead that you attend us. Like the eagle that You created circles round and round, higher and higher, to protect its young, so guard us from danger. As a dove hovers constantly over its young, never tiring of its task, so let me be nestled in Your care. Spread Your wings, carry me, watch over me. Bring me to Your holy house on eagle's wings.

- Rabbi Edward Feld

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I call to You.
Lord, hear my cry, heed my plea.

Be attentive to my prayers,
To my sigh of supplication.

Who could endure, Lord,
If You kept count of every sin?

But forgiveness is Yours;
Therefore we revere You.

I wait for the Lord; my soul yearns.
Hopefully I await His word.

I wait for the Lord
More eagerly than watchmen wait for dawn.

Put your hope in the Lord,
For the Lord is generous with mercy.

Abundant is His power to redeem;
May He redeem the people Israel from all sin.

- Translation by Rabbi Gershon Hadas

13 Attributes

Adonai, Adonai - Louis Lewandowski

אֵל רָחוּם וְחַנּוּן, אֶרְךְ אֲפָיִם וּרְבָּחֶסֶד וְאֶמֶת
נִצָּר חֶסֶד לְאַלְפִּים, נִשְׁאָר טָהָר וְפָטָע וְחַטָּאת וְנָקֶה.

*Adonai, Adonai, Eil rachum v'chanun,
Erech apayim v'rav chesed ve'emet,
Notseir chesed la'alafim,
Nosei avon vafesha, v'chata'ah v'nakeh.*

*Adonai, Adonai, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in kindness and faithfulness, extending mercy unto the
thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin,
and granting pardon.*

God is merciful and gracious
Endlessly patient
Loving and true
Showing mercy to thousands
Forgiving our sin
And granting pardon

We pray,
Pardon our sin;
call us Your own

Eternal God, what can we say in Your presence? How do we account for our sins? We speak of t'shuva (repentance), and yet are slow to change. But now we turn to You with the prayer that Your love may abide with us always, turning our hearts to Your ways, our feet to Your path. Hope is food and drink to us; hope sustains us. And so we pray: Do not turn us away empty handed from Your presence. End our darkness with Your light and turn our passions to Your purpose. Help us, Eternal God, in this hour of turning, to make real in our lives the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts.

Meditation -Yihyu L'ratzon - Marshall Portnoy

יְהִי לְرָצֹן אַמְرֵי פִי וְהַגְּוֹן לְבִי לְפָנֶיךָ יְהִי צְדָקָה וְגּוֹאָלָה.
עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמַרְומָיו, הוּא יָעַשֶּׂה שָׁלוֹם עַלְינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְאָמְרוֹ אָמֵן.

*Yih'yu l'ratzon imrei fi v'heg yon libi l'fanecha
Adonai tsuri v'goali.*

*O May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable before you
O God my rock and my redeemer.*

*Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
V'al kol Yisrael v'imru amen.*

*May the one who brings peace to God's universe, grant
peace to us and all Israel and let us say: Amen.*

Vidui

A Modern Ashamnu: We have sinned...

We have all committed offenses, together we confess these human sins.

The sins of

Arrogance

Bigotry

Cynicism

Deceit

Egotism

Flattery

Greed

Hatred

Injustice

Jealousy

Some of us were

Grudging

Lustful

Malicious

Narrow minded

Obstinate

Possessive

Quarrelsome

Rancorous

Selfish

We have allowed

Violence

Weakness of will

We have

Yielded to temptation

Showed zeal for bad causes.

We have turned aside from Your commandments and from Your precepts, and it has not availed us. You are just, whatever befalls us. You call us to righteousness but we bring evil upon ourselves.

Eloheinu-Tavo L'fanecha -

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, תָּבָא לִפְנֵינוּ תִּפְלַחֲנוּ, וְאֶל
תִּתְعַלֶּם מִתְחַנְּתָנוּ, שָׁיאָן אָנוּ עַזְּנִים וְקַשְׁתִּים עַרְבִּים,
לֹמֶר לִפְנֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ, צְדִיקִים אֲנָחָנוּ
וְלֹא חֲטָאָנוּ, אֲבָל אֲנָחָנוּ וְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ חֲטָאָנוּ.

*Eloheinu veilohei avoteinu, tavo l'fanecha t'filateinu,
v'al tit'alam mit'chinateinu,
she-ein anu azei fanim uk'shei oref lomar l'fanecha
Adonai Eloheinu veilohei avoteinu, tzadikim anachnu
v'lo chatanu, aval anachnu va-avoteinu chatanu.*

Our God, God of our mothers and fathers, grant that our
prayers may reach You. Do not be deaf to our pleas, for
we are not so arrogant and stiff-necked as to say before
You, our God and God of all ages, we are perfect and
have not sinned; rather do we confess; we have gone
astray we have sinned, we have transgressed.

Ashamnu - Traditional

אֲשָׁמָנוּ, בָּגָדָנוּ, גּוֹלָנוּ, דִּבָּרָנוּ דָּפִי. חָטָאָנוּ, וְחִרְשָׁעָנוּ,
זָדָנוּ, חָמָסָנוּ, טָפָלָנוּ שְׁקָר. יָעָצָנוּ רָע, קִזְבָּנוּ, לָצָנוּ,
מָרָדָנוּ, נָאָצָנוּ, סְרָרָנוּ, עָזָנוּ, פְּשָׁעָנוּ, צָרָרָנוּ, קִשְׁעָנוּ
עַרְף. רְשָׁעָנוּ, שְׁחִתָּנוּ, תְּעַבֵּנוּ, תְּעִינָנוּ, תְּעִתְעָנוּ.

*Ashamnu, bagadnu, gazalnu, dibarnu dofi.
He'evinu, v'hirshanu, zadnu, chamasnu, tafalnu sheker.
Ya'atznu ra, kizavnu, latznu, maradnu, ni'atznu, sararnu
Avinu, pashanu, tzararnu, kishinu oref.
Rashanu, shichatnu, ti'avnu, ta'inu, ti'ta'nu.*

For the sin we have committed by ignoring the poor and for the sin we have
committed by trying to outdo each other in displaying wealth, for the sin we have
committed by closing our hearts and our neighborhoods to other races and for the

sin we have committed by teaching children prejudice through our attitudes, and for the sin we have committed by tolerating the existence of homelessness.

For the sin we have committed by conforming. For the sin we have committed by neglecting our parents, and for the sin we have committed by indulging our children. For the sin we have committed by rejecting our tradition through ignorance, and for the sin we have committed by rebelling for the sake of rebellion. For the sin we have committed by wasting our lives on vanity, and for the sin we have committed by running after recognition.

For all these sins,
God of forgiveness,
Forgive us,
Pardon us,
Grant us atonement.

V'al Kulam - Traditional

יעל נָלָם, אֱלֹהָה סְלִיחוֹת, סְלִיחַ לָנוּ, מְחַל לָנוּ, כְּפַר - לָנוּ.

*V'al kulam, Elo-ah s'lichot,
S'lach lanu, m'chal lanu, kaper lanu.*

For the sin we have committed by being a divided community, and for the sin we have committed by not remembering oppressed Jews all over the world. For the sin we have committed by not educating our children in Torah, and for the sin we have committed by not continuing to educate ourselves in Torah. For the sin we have committed by confining Jewish life to the synagogue and for the sin we have committed by not supporting Jewish education. For the sin we have committed by not growing as Jews and for the sin we have committed by not allowing others to grow as Jews.

For all these sins,
God of forgiveness,
Forgive us,
Pardon us,
Grant us atonement.

V'al Kulam - Traditional

וְעַל־כָּלֶם אֱלֹהָה סְלִיחוֹת סְלָח־לָנוּ מְחִיל־לָנוּ כְּפִרְעָה־לָנוּ

*V'al kulam, Elo-ah s'lichot,
S'lach lanu, m'chal lanu, kaper lanu.*

Haneshama lakh

The soul is Yours, the body is Your creation.
Lord, have compassion upon your handiwork.
The soul is Yours, the body is Yours.
Deal with us according to Your name.
We come before You relying on Your name.
According to Your glorious name, help us.
Your name is “gracious, compassionate God.”
Forgive, then, our sin, though it is great.

Forgive us, our Father!
With great folly have we gone astray.
Pardon us, our Ruler!
Our sins have overwhelmed us.

Hear Our Prayer

Hear our voice our God; have compassion upon us and with that compassion accept our prayer. Help us to return to You, then truly shall we return. Renew our days as of old. Consider our words, O God, look into our inmost thoughts. Do not cast us away from Your presence, do not remove your holy presence. Do not dismiss us when we are old; as our strength diminishes, do not abandon us. Do not abandon us our God; do not be far from us. For You do we wait, and You our God will answer.

- Translation by Rabbi Gershon Hadas

Sh'ma Kolenu - Max Helfman

שְׁמַע קֹלֵנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, חُסֵּךְ וְרַחֲם עַלְנוּ,
וְקִבֵּל בְּרַחֲמִים וּבְרַצּוֹן אֶת תְּפִלָּתֵנוּ.
הַשִּׁיבֵּנוּ יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵךְ וְנִשְׁׁוּבָה, חִדְשֵׁנָנוּ מִןָּכֶדֶם.
אַל תְּשִׁלְיכֵנוּ לְעֵת זִקְנָה, בְּפָלוֹת כְּחַנָּה אַל תַּעֲזַבֵּנוּ.

*Sh'ma koleinu, Adonai Eloheinu, chus v'racheim aleinu,
v'kabeil b'rachamim uv'ratzon et t'filateinu. Hashiveinu
Adonai, eilecha v'nashuvah, chadeish yameinu k'kedem.
Al tash'licheinu l'beit ziknah, kich'lot kocheinu al
ta-az'veinu.*

*Hear our voice Adonai our God, and have compassion upon us
Accept our prayer with compassion and favor
Help us to return to You O God; then truly shall we return.
Renew our days as in the past.
Do not cast us out in our old age,
When our strength gives out do not forsake us*

There is no other way to say it: If we want to restore our lives to order, we have to turn to God. We can't rely only on ourselves any longer. We see the dead ends toward which that approach has taken us. Although t'shuvah may require only a slight turning, that's all it takes to point us in a completely different direction.

The path of repentance is neither short nor direct. We should not be fooled into thinking otherwise. These days of Elul will just get us started on our way. Once we have begun our spiritual journey, however, it doesn't matter how long it takes -- or where it takes us -- because we'll know that we are going in the right direction.

Rabbi Yose ben Halafta was once asked what God had been doing since the creation of the world. His response: "Making ladders for people to descend and ascend" (Levitcus Rabbah 8:1). We've all been on those ladders going in both directions: climbing, teetering, falling. Maybe the sages were right when they claimed that our people could not have entered Canaan had they not been first enslaved in Egypt. Only when we were ready for freedom could we make our way through the desert toward the Promised Land.

What did we learn in the desert? That we may stumble and fall, but God wants us to right ourselves and continue.

Avinu Malkeinu, hear our voice.
Avinu Malkeinu, we have sinned against You.
Avinu Malkeinu, have compassion on us and our children.
Avinu Malkeinu, make an end to sickness, war and famine.
Avinu Malkeinu, make an end to all oppression.
Avinu Malkeinu, inscribe us for blessing in the Book of Life.
Avinu Malkeinu, let the New Year be a good year for us.

Avinu Malkenu - Max Janowski

אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ שְׁמָעْ קֹלֵנוּ.
אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ חֲטָאנוּ לְפִנֵּיךְ.
אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ חִמּוֹל עַלְנוּ וְעַל עַזְלֵנוּ וְטַפֵּנוּ.
אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ פֶּלֶה דָּבָר וְחַרְבָּ וְרַעַב מְעַלֵּנוּ.
אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ פֶּלֶה בָּל צָר וְמַשְׁטֵין מְעַלֵּנוּ.
אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ בְּתַבּוֹן בְּסִפְרַת חַיִם טוֹבִים.
אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ חַיִשׁ עַלְנוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה.

*Avinu Malkeinu! sh'ma koleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu! chatanu l'fanecha.
Avinu Malkeinu! chamol aleinu v'al olaleinu v'tapeinu.
Avinu Malkeinu! kaleih dever v'cherev v'ra-av mei-aleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu! kalei kol tzar umastein mei-aleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu! kot'veinu b'seifer chayim tovim.
Avinu Malkeinu! chadeish aleinu shanah tovah.*

Avinu Malkeinu - folk

אָבִינוּ מֶלֶךְנוּ חִנּוּ וְעַנוּ, כִּי אֵין בָּנוּ מְעַשִּׁים.
עַתָּה עַפּוּנוּ צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְהַזָּרְעָנוּ.

*Avinu malkeinu! Avinu malkeinu,
Avinu malkeinu, choneinu va'aneinu, ki ein banu ma'asim,
Asei imanu tzedakah vachesed,
Asei imanu tzedakah vachesed
V'hoshi'einu.*

*Avinu Malkeinu! be gracious and answer us, for we have little merit.
Treat us generously and with kindness, and be our help.*

THE SHOFAR IS SOUNDED