



Guide to Celebrating Yom Kippur 2021

Erev Yom Kippur – Wednesday, September 15

- Weekday Mincha includes Vidui which can be found in the Yom Kippur Machzor.
- The seudah hamfseket (pre-fast meal) should be eaten after Mincha.
- It is customary to bless one's children prior to Yom Kippur. The text can be found in the Machzor.
- Those who normally wear a tallis and/or kittel should do so when davening at home. The beracha on the tallis should be recited before accepting Yom Kippur.
- Those who recite Yizkor light a candle before Yom Kippur. Even those who don't recite Yizkor should have a 25-hour candle lit in their home so it can be used for Havdalah.
- Candle lighting is at 6:47 pm. The beracha should conclude להדליק נר של יום הכפורים.
- There is a mitzvah of *tosefet Yom Kippur*, which means that one should accept Yom Kippur and observe all of the prohibitions of Yom Kippur prior to sundown. As such, even those who don't light candles should accept Yom Kippur at candle lighting time.
- It is customary to recite *Tefillah Zakah* (found in the Machzor) as a means of accepting Yom Kippur, focused specifically on the section in which we grant forgiveness to others.

General Yom Kippur Davening Instructions

- In each of the five prayer services (Ma'ariv, Shacharit, Musaf, Mincha and Neilah), Selichot are recited after the Silent Amidah. At Ma'ariv, it is a standalone Selichot and in the daytime, they are part of the Chazan's repetition. When one is without a minyan, the Selichot may be recited, omitting the paragraphs containing the Thirteen Attributes or mercy.
- There is a tradition to recite Vidui (the confession) ten times over the course of Yom Kippur: five during each silent Amidah and five during the Selichot that follow each Amidah. As such, one davening without a minyan should prioritize Vidui (at least Ashamnu) in choosing which parts of Selichot to recite.
- There are many beautiful piyutim that are recited in Chazarat HaShatz. These piyutim, together with their accompanying tunes may be recited when davening without a minyan. Singing them or reciting them can greatly enhance one's Yom Kippur davening.

Yom Kippur Night

- Shehechyanu (traditionally recited at the end of Kol Nidre) should be recited before Ma'ariv.
- Ma'ariv for Yom Kippur with Vidui.
- Selichot may be recited (see general instructions above).
- Ma'ariv concludes with Avinu Malkeinu, L'David Mizmor, Aleinu, L'David HaShem Ori and Adon Olam.

Yom Kippur Day – Thursday, September 16

Shacharit

- On Yom Kippur, the Songs of the Day and Psalm 27 are recited at the beginning of davening.

- Shir HaMa'alot is recited after Yishtabach.
- Birchot Keriar Sh'ma for weekday are recited.
- Shacharit Amidah for Yom Kippur with Vidui.
- Selichot, Vidui and piyutim from Chazarat HaShatz may be recited after the silent Amidah (see general instructions above).
- Avinu Malkeinu is recited at the conclusion of Shacharit.
- The Torah reading is Vayikra 16:1-34, the maftir is Bamidbar 29:7-11 and the haftarah is Yeshaya 57:14-58:14.
- Yizkor can be recited without a minyan.
- Av HaRachamim should be recited (even if one does not recite Yizkor) followed by Ashrei.

Mussaf

- Selichot, Vidui and piyutim from Chazarat HaShatz may be recited after the silent Amidah (see general instructions above). One should make an effort to recite ותנה תוקף .

Mincha

- Mincha should be recited in the afternoon. Leaving enough time before sunset.
- The Torah reading for Mincha is Vayikra 18:1-28 and the haftarah is Sefer Yonah.
- Mincha Amidah for Yom Kippur with Vidui. Mincha concludes with Avinu Malkeinu.

Neilah

- Neilah should begin before sunset.
- Neilah begins with Ashrei, U'Va L'Tzion followed by the Amidah. Please note the change in text of some of the insertions and the special text of Vidui.
- Selichot, Vidui and piyutim from Chazarat HaShatz may be recited after the silent Amidah (see general instructions above).
- Neilah concludes with a special Avinu Malkeinu followed by Sh'ma, Baruch Shem Kevod and HaShem Hu HaElokim.
- If one can blow shofar, the shofar should be blown after 7:45 pm. If one cannot blow shofar, it is not required.

Motzaei Yom Kippur

- Weekday Amidah should be recited including Atah Chonantanu.
- Havdalah consists of three berachot: HaGafen, HaEsh and HaMavdil (no besamim). The beracha on fire should be recited on a candle that was burning the entire Yom Kippur.
- The fast ends at 7:45 pm.
- Kiddush Levana is recited on Motzaei Yom Kippur.