

How to Perform the Daily Prayers

A handy, simplified guide to learn how to pray.

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“...but when ye are free from danger, set up Regular Prayers: For such Prayers are enjoined on believers at stated times.”(Holy Qur'an: Chapter 4, Verse 103)

It is obligatory to perform the following five prayers every day during the prescribed times:

- *Salat al-Fajr* (**Dawn** prayer), which consist of two units (each unit of prayer is called a *rak`ah*)
- *Salat al-Zuhr* (**Midday** prayer) consisting of four units
- *Salat al-`Asr* (**Afternoon** prayer) consisting of four units
- *Salat al-Maghrib* (**Dusk** prayer) which consist of three units
- *Salat al-`Isha* (**Night** prayer) consisting of four units.

Performing the Daily Prayers according to the Shi'ah Ja'fari school of law involves taking prescribed steps in order (*tartib*) and in regular succession without undue delay between them (*muwalat*). The person must first perform preliminary purification (*ghusl*, if necessary, or *wudhu*) and fulfil all other prerequisites.

Preparation

Stand upright facing the *Qiblah* (direction of Mecca) and recite the *adhan* and *iqama*. Please note that all the recitations during the prayer must be in Arabic. Although approximate transliteration has been given below for each recitation, it is best to try and learn the Arabic script and pronunciations.

Niyah: Form the following solemn intention in your mind: **“I offer this ____ (name of a particular prayer) prayer, of ____ (number of units) *rak`ah*'s seeking closeness to God”.**

The First Rak`ah

Takbiratul Ihram: Lift both hands up to the ears and say:

**Allaahu akbar
God is Greater**

This sentence, the **Takbir**, will be repeated several times during the prayer.

Qiyam: Remain in the standing position while performing the recitations in the next step, *Qira'ah*.



Qira'ah: Initially, recite the first Chapter of the Holy Qur'an, *Surat al-Fatiha*

Bismillaahi'r-Rahmaani'r-Raheem

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Al-hamdu lillaahi rabbil-`aalameen

Praise belongs to God, Lord of the Worlds

Arrahmaanir raheem

the Merciful, the Compassionate

Maaliki yawmid-deen

Master of the Day of Judgement

Iyyaaka na`budu wa iyyaaka nasta`een

We worship only You and from You alone do we seek help

Ihdinas-siraat al-mustaqeem

Lead us on the straight path

siraat al-ladheena an`amta `alayhim

he path of those whom You have blessed

ghayril maghdoobi `alayhim

not of those on whom is [Your] Wrath

wa la`d-daalleen

nor of those who have gone astray

Second, recite another complete Chapter of the Holy Qur'an (we choose the short chapter number 112, *Surat al-Ikhlās*).

Bismillaahi`r-Rahmaani`r-Raheem

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Qul huwallaahu ahad

Say: 'He is God, the One

Allaahus samad

God the Eternal and Besought of all,

Lam yalid walam yoolad

Neither begetting nor begot

Wa lam yakullahu kufuwan ahad

Nor is there anything comparable or equal to Him

Ruku`: After completing the second chapter, the worshipper would say the *Takbir* (see above) and then bow down until the hands can be placed on the knees.



The following *dhikr* (glorification) should be recited once in this position:

Subhaana rabbiy al`azeemi wa bihamdih

Glory be to my Lord, the Great, and praise belongs to Him

Then, resume the standing position and recite:

Sami` allaahu liman hamidah

God hears the one who praises Him

Say *Takbir*, then go into Prostration (*sujud*)

Sujud means that one should place one's forehead on earth in a special manner, with the intention of humility before God.



While performing the *sujud*, it is obligatory that both the palms and the knees, and both the big toes be placed on the ground. The following *dhikr* should be recited in the *sujud* once:

Subhaana rabbiy al-a`laa wa bihamdih

Glory be to my Exalted Lord, and praise belongs to Him

After first *sujud*, raise the forehead and sit up in a kneeling position with the ankle of the right foot in the sole of the left foot, with hands resting on the thighs



and say *Takbir*, optionally followed by:

Astaghfirullaaha rabbee wa atoobu ilayh

I ask forgiveness of God, my Lord, and turn towards him

followed by *Takbir* again. Repeat the *sujud* again and then sit up in a kneeling position and say *Takbir*.

Sit up for a moment and then rise while (optionally) saying:

Bihawllillaahi wa quwwatihi aqoomu wa aq`ud

With God's help and through His power I stand and sit

The Second Rak`ah

After regaining the upright posture, recite *Surat al-Fatiha* and another *Surah* of the Holy Qur'an as in the first *rak`ah*. Then say *Takbir*, and then do *Qunut*.

Qunut: Keep your hands in front of your face, turning the palms facing upwards, and keeping both the hands and the fingers close together.



Recite the following:

Rabbanaa aatinaa fi'd-dunyaa hasanatan wa fi'l-aakhirati hasanatan wa qinaa `adhaab an-naar

O our Lord! Bestow upon us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and protect us from the torment of the fire

[Holy Qur'an, chapter 2, verse 201]

[Note: *Qunut* is an optional step]

Say *Takbir*, followed by the *ruku`*, then the two *sujud*, both as described for the first *rak`ah*.

Tashahhud: After the second prostration resume the kneeling position, and recite:

Ash hadu al laa ilaaha illallaahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,

I bear witness that there is no god apart from Allah, Who is unique and without partners.

wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan `abduhu wa rasuluh

I also bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His Prophet

Allaahumma salli `alaa Muhammadin wa Aali Muhammad

O God, bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad.

If you are performing the *Fajr* (Dawn) prayer, please skip the rest and go to section entitled **Completion**.

If you are performing the *Zuhr* (Midday), *`Asr* (Afternoon), *Maghrib* (Dusk), or *`Isha* (Night) prayer, continue by standing up for the third unit while reciting *Bihawllillahi....* as described at the end of the section **First Rak`ah**.

The Third Rak`ah

At-Tasbihat al-Arba`ah: After regaining the upright posture, either recite *Surat al-Fatiha*, or recite *al-Tasbihat al-Arba`ah* three times, as follows:

Subhaanallaahi wa'l hamdu lillaahi wa laa ilaaha illallaahu wallaahu akbar

Glory be to God, and praise be to God; there is no god but Allah, and Allah is Greater

Perform the *ruku`*, stand up momentarily and then do the two *sujud*. This is exactly as described under section **First Rak`ah**. If you are performing the *Maghrib* (Dusk) prayers, recite the *Tashahhud* next. Then skip the rest and go to **Completion**.

If you are performing the *Zuhr* (Midday), *`Asr* (Afternoon), or *`Isha* (Night) prayer, continue by standing up for the fourth *rak`ah* while reciting ***Bihawlillahi....*** as described at the end of the section **First Rak`ah**.

The Fourth Rak`ah

This is identical to the third *rak`ah*.

After the second prostration resume the kneeling position, and recite the *Tashahhud*.

Completion

After reciting the *Tashahhud* of the final *rak`ah*, recite the **Taslim** (*Salutation*) which completes your prayer:

Assalaamu `alayka ayyuhan nabiiyyu wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh

Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and God's mercy and blessing.

Assalamu `alaynaa wa `alaa `ibaadillaahis saaliheen

Peace be upon us, and upon the righteous servants of God

Assalamu `alaykum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh

Peace be upon you [all], and God's mercy and blessing.

Thereafter (optionally) say *Takbir* three times.