



Chanukah Blessings



The first candle should be lit on Sunday night, December 18, 2022. Each night, the candles are placed in the menorah from right to left and kindled from left to right. The home ceremony includes: 1) lighting the shamash candle; 2) optional reading (on the left side of this page); 3) blessings below; 4) lighting the Chanukah candles; 5) singing of Chanukah songs (on reverse side)

Blessing for the Shamash (recited each day):

As one candle may kindle many others, yet lose none of its own light, so Judaism has kindled the lights of justice and freedom in many ages for many peoples. In a time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom to be themselves, freedom to worship in their own way. Theirs was the victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples. Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world. May they illuminate our lives, even as they fill us with gratitude that our faith has been saved from extinction time and again. As Chanukah means “rededication”, **we rededicate ourselves this Chanukah to these middot “values”**:

1st night: The Middah of *Gratitude*. “It is good to give thanks...” -Psalm 92

2nd night: The Middah of *Holiness*. Each of us is a holy soul.

3rd night: The Middah of *Justice*. “Justice, Justice shall you pursue.” -Deuteronomy 16:20

4th night: The Middah of *Compassion*. “Adonai our God is Compassionate and Gracious.” -Exodus 34:6

5th night: The Middah of *Courage*. “Be strong and of good Courage.” Exodus 31:6

6th night: The Middah of *Hope*. “God desires not sacrifices, but hope.” -Midrash Psalms

7th night: The Middah of *Love*. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” -Leviticus 19:18

8th night: The Middah of *Peace*. “May God bless you with peace.” -Numbers 6:26

To discuss: In what ways does tonight’s value help us want to change something in our lives or in our society?

On all nights, after the shamash is lit and reading is done (see box on the left of this page), recite:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.
Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha’olam, asher kid’sha-nu b’mitz-vo-tav vetzi-va-nu l’had-lik nair shel Chanukah. **Start lighting candles as next prayer is said.**

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with Your mitzvot and commanded us to kindle the light of Chanukah.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו ואמתינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.
Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha’olam, she’asa ni’sim la’avotaynu v’imo-tei-nu ba’ya’mim ha’haim ba’zman ha’zeh. **More songs on back...**

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

On first night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.
Baruch ata A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Melech Ha’olam, she-he-che-ya-nu v’ki-y’ma-nu v’hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to celebrate this season.

More Chanukah Prayers

Maoz Tzur

Maoz tzur y'shu-a-ti, lecha na-eh l'sha-bei-ach

Tikon beit t'fi-lati, v'sham toda n'za-bei-ach

L'eit ta-chin mat-bei-ach, mi-tzar ham'na-bei-ach

Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor Chanukat ha-miz-bei-ach

Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor Chanukat ha-miz-bei-ach

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי לָךְ נֶאֱהָ לְשִׁבְחָךְ,

תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תִּפְלְתִי וְשָׁם תִּזְדַּה נְצִיבְךָ,

לְעֵת תִּכְיִן מִטְבַּח מִצָּר הַמְנַיִבְךָ,

אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר הַחֲנֻכָּה הַמְזֻבָּח.

Rock of Ages let our song praise Thy saving power

Thou amidst the raging foes wast our shelt'ring tower

Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us

And Thy word broke their sword when our own strength failed us (2X).

HaNeirot Halalu “These lights”

הַנֵּרוֹת הַקְּלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל
הַמִּלְחָמוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְן הַזֶּה. וְכָל שְׂמוֹנֵת יָמֵי חֲנֻכַּה הַנֵּרוֹת
הַקְּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלִבָּד, כְּדִי לְהוֹדוֹת
וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסְיֶיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶיךָ.

Haneirot ha-lalu anachnu mad'li-kin al ha-nisim ve'al ha-niflaot v'al ha-tshu-ot ve'al ha-milchamot
she-a-sita la'avoteynu ba-yamim hahem, baz'man ha-zeh. V'chol shmo-nat y'mei Chanukah
haneirot ha-lalu kodesh hem, ve-ein lanu re-shut le-hish-ta-mesh ba-hem ela lir-o-tam bilvad kedei
le'hodot u-l'haleil l'shim-cha hagadol, al nise-cha v'al niflo-techa v'al y'shu-o-techa.

We kindle these lights for the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

