

## BLESSINGS FOR YOM KIPPUR EVENING

It is customary to have a *festive* meal before the fast of Yom Kippur, with the table set nicely as it is for Shabbat and holidays; however, it is not a *festival* meal, because the holy day has not yet begun. (If it had begun, we could no longer eat.) There is therefore no Kiddush, and the candles are lit *after* the meal. Some people have the custom to eat hallah with honey at this meal, but there is no special *brakha*, only the blessings for handwashing and the *motzi* said at any other meal.

### HANDWASHING & HA-MOTZI

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
עַל נְטִילַת יָדַיִם. *Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu  
al netilat yadayim.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Who has made us holy through the commandments and commanded us concerning the washing of hands.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ. *Barukh attah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam  
ha-motzi lehem  
min ha-aretz.*



Praised are You, Adonai our God, Who brings bread from the earth.

### AFTER THE MEAL

After the meal, say *Birkat ha-mazon*, the Grace after Meals, as for a weekday, with no special insertions.

### LIGHTING A MEMORIAL CANDLE



Many families light *yahrzeit* candles in memory of loved ones who have died. There is no blessing or prayer to say when lighting the candle(s). You may want to say the name of the person you are remembering and even say a few words about the person. You may want to read these lines by the poet Hannah Senesh:

*There are stars whose light reaches the earth only after they themselves have disintegrated and there are individuals whose memory lights the world after they have passed from it. These lights shine in the darkest night and illumine the path for us to walk.*

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל  
[שַׁבָּת וְ] יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים. *Barukh attah Adonai  
eloheinu melekh ha-olam  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav  
v'tzivanu  
l'hadlik ner shel [shabbat v'] yom ha-kippurim.  
[include bracketed words on Shabbat]*



Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us to light the [Shabbat and] **Yom Kippur** lights.

## APPRECIATING LIFE

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ייִ  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהֲחַיֵּנוּ  
וְקִיַּמָּנוּ  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה. *Barukh attah Adonai  
eloheinu melekh ha-olam  
sheh-heh-heyanu  
v'kiyimanu  
v'higiyanu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, Who has granted us life and sustenance and permitted us to reach this season.

## BLESSING THE CHILDREN



יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה. (To a boy.) *Y'sim'kha elohim k'efrayim v'khi-m'nasheh.*  
May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe.  
יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים (To a girl) *Y'simeikh elohim*  
כְּסָרַח, רִיבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה. *k'sarah, rivkah, rahel, v'leah.*  
May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.  
יְבָרְכֶךָ ייִ וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ. *Y'varekhekha Adonai v'yishm'rekha*  
יָאֵר ייִ פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנֶּךָ. *Ya'eir Adonai panav eilekha vi-hunekha*  
יִשָּׂא ייִ פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם. *Yisa Adonai panav eilekha v'yaseim l'kha shalom.*

May Adonai bless you and guard you; may Adonai turn His face to you and be gracious to you; may Adonai lift up His face to you and give you peace.

## ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS

This is the time to ask the forgiveness of all those whom you have not yet approached to ask their forgiveness. Until we have asked for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged in word or deed, we cannot seek God's forgiveness, and our fasting and praying on Yom Kippur will not make atonement for our wrongdoing. You might say something like this:

*I apologize if I have hurt you by what I have done, or have failed to do, by what I have said, or what I have failed to say, since last Yom Kippur. I promise to improve my ways in the coming year, and I ask for your forgiveness as we enter Yom Kippur.*

גְּמַר חַתִּימָה טוֹבָה! ~ *G'mar hatimah tovah!*

**May you be sealed in the Book of Life!**