

The first light of Chanukah is at sunset Sunday evening, December 18th – 25 Kislev 5783
The last light is Sunday evening, Dec. 25th. The 8th day is Monday, Dec. 26th.

Place the candles in the Chanukah menorah from right to left, i.e., always place the first night's candle in first. Light the candles from left to right, e.g., on the second night, light the second night's candle, then the first night's candle. If you wish to use the special readings, this is the order of the Home Service:

- (1) Opening prayer. (2) Light the Shamash-the serving candle.
- (3) Recite/Sing the Chanukah Blessings, light the Chanukah Menorah.
- (4) Closing Prayer.

Chanukah Blessings (recited each night)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה: (אָמֵן)

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHAYNU MELECH HA-OLAM, ASHER KID'SHANU
B'MITS'VOTAV V'TSI-VANU L'HADLIK NAYR SHEL CHANUKAH.

Praised are You, O Lord our God, Ruling Spirit of the Universe, who has sanctified us by His laws and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHAYNU MELECH HA-OLAM, SHEH-AH-SA NISEEM
LA-AVO-TAY-NU BA-YA-MEEM HA-HAYM BAZ-MAN HA-ZEH.

Praised are You, O Lord our God, Ruling Spirit of the Universe, who inspired the heroic deeds of our forefathers in times past at this season.

(she-he-che-yanu is recited first night only)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHAYNU MELECH HA-OLAM SHE-HE-CHE-
YANU V'KI-Y'MANU V'HI-GI-ANU LAZ-MAN HA-ZEH.

Praised are You, O Lord our God, Ruling Spirit of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and permitted us to celebrate this joyous festival.

FIRST NIGHT:**FREEDOM - CHAYRUT**

(opening prayer) We kindle these Chanukah lights in memory of the dedication and courage of the Maccabees. They willingly sacrificed their lives for the freedom to worship God as their hearts and minds dictated. And as we kindle these lights, we recall our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." We shall work for the realization of a society of democracy and freedom.

(closing prayer) Our God and God of all generations, let these lights shine forth brightly, reminding us that all people are created equal in Your sight. Inspire us anew, that we may serve the cause of freedom as valiantly as did our ancestors before us. Praised are You, O Lord, who has implanted within us the love of liberty and freedom. Amen

SECOND NIGHT:**FAMILY – MISHPACHAH**

(opening prayer) Tonight, as we celebrate Chanukah together, we are conscious of our precious gift of family. So often we take one another for granted, forgetting to express our love and devotion. As we kindle these festive lights, let us rededicate ourselves to sharing our interests and time with one another. Like the Maccabees of old, let us face the tribulations and the joys of life united by our family bonds.

(closing prayer) Eternal God, we thank You for preserving us in health and joy. We pray that all families everywhere may experience the love for one another we share. Praised are You, O Lord our God, who turns the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents. Amen

THIRD NIGHT:**STUDY – TALMUD TORAH**

(opening prayer) As the Maccabees courageously fought to preserve our faith, we too are duty-bound to sustain our heritage by deepening our understanding of it. Study opens our minds and fortifies us against tyranny. Learning secures our freedom. As we kindle these candles, we rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition.

(closing prayer) O Lord, may we ever recognize our obligation to learn, and may these Chanukah lights inspire us to use our minds for the benefit of all humanity. Amen

F O U R T H N I G H T:**HOPE - TIKVAH**

(opening prayer) Ours are times when many people live in fear and great despair. Like the Maccabees, we need to build our lives on hope - hope that ultimately truth will triumph over superstition, and confidence that trust and understanding will finally depose tyranny. As we kindle these Chanukah lights, may our heads be lifted by our tradition's sense of confidence, optimism, hope and trust.

(closing prayer) Eternal God, inspire us with hope to face courageously the trails and challenges which confront us. May our efforts bring the fulfillment of our highest aspirations. Praised are You, O Lord, who encourages our desires for a better tomorrow and our steadfast hope in the future. Amen

F I F T H N I G H T:**RIGHTEOUSNESS - TZEDAKAH**

(opening prayer) Our tradition tells us that during the Maccabean war for freedom, all Jews-children and adults -contributed generously toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. There are still many people afflicted by sickness, hunger, ignorance and prejudice. Tonight, like our ancestors, we put aside gifts of charity in order that we too may help to bring an end to oppression. We pray that the humble gifts we offer will provide food for the hungry, medicine for the sick, knowledge for the ignorant and equal opportunity for those afflicted by prejudice. (Each member of the family sets aside his/her gift of Tzedakah.) As we kindle our Chanukah lights, we rededicate ourselves to the ideal of tzedakah-righteousness and justice, our duty and our privilege.

(closing prayer) Our God and God of all generations, may our Chanukah candles symbolize for us the light of happiness and hope which our tzedakah will bring to those oppressed by need. Aid us, O Lord, to be compassionate and generous toward our brothers and sisters in the human family of God. Amen

S I X T H N I G H T:**PEACE -SHALOM**

(opening prayer) The candles of Chanukah remind us of our mission as Jews. One of our foremost tasks is to secure peace in our troubled world. When we end disagreements through mutual understanding, when we seek to mend hurt and wounded feelings, we make peace a living ideal. As we kindle our Chanukah candles, we rededicate ourselves to the task of securing peace.

(closing prayer) O Lord our God, show the pathway of peace to all humanity. Help us to realize that hate and prejudice bring nothing but strife and chaos into the world. Let all people recognize that only through cooperation can the blessings of peace be made secure. Praised are You, O Lord, teacher of peace. Amen

SEVENTH NIGHT:

BROTHERHOOD - AH-CHA-VA

(opening prayer) Brotherhood is founded upon whole-hearted respect for the precious liberty and freedom of all people. As we kindle these lights, we rededicate ourselves to the cause of brotherhood which alone can bring dignity to all God's children.

(closing prayer) Our God, teach us to be sensitive to the feelings of our friends and neighbors. Help us to understand their failings, and grant us the humility to applaud their achievements. Praised are You, O Lord, for teaching us to cherish the brotherhood and unity of all humanity. Amen

EIGHTH NIGHT:

FAITH – EMUNAH

(opening prayer) Throughout the centuries, the Menorah has been a symbol of our Jewish faith. Tonight, as we kindle all the candles of our Chanukah Menorah, we rededicate ourselves to the living of a more meaningful Jewish life. We pray that throughout this coming year we may fulfill the ideals of freedom, family, study, hope, tzedakah, shalom, brotherhood and faith.

(closing prayer) Our God and God of all generations, may we be sustained and strengthened by our faith. Through our study of it, and through our devotion to its ideals, may we speed the day when all people will recognize that they are brothers and sisters; then will Your Kingdom be established, and peace on earth be made secure. Praised are You, O Lord, for the opportunity of celebrating this holiday of Chanukah. Amen