

תְּקִיעַת  
שׁוֹפָר



**SHOFAR SERVICE**

**TEKIAT SHOFAR**

## Preludes to the Shofar service

On Shabbat, the Shofar is not sounded; the service continues on page 250.

כְּלִי-הַעֲמִים תִּקְעוּ-כַף הַרְיֵעוּ לֵאלֹהִים בְּקוֹל רִנָּה:  
כִּי־יִי עֲלִיּוֹן נוֹרָא מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל עַל־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ:

All you nations clap your hands;  
Sing aloud to God with a voice of triumph.  
For the Lord is awesome and supreme;  
He is a great King over all the earth.

*Psalms 47:2-3*

בְּחִצְצָרוֹת וְקוֹל שׁוֹפָר הַרְיֵעוּ לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ יי:

With trumpets and the sound of the Shofar  
Acclaim the King, the Lord.

*Psalms 98:6*

In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. You shall observe it as a day when the Shofar is sounded.

*Numbers 29:1*

Sound the Shofar on the New Moon,  
At the time appointed for our New Year.  
Its observance is a law for Israel,  
Ordained by the God of Jacob.

*Psalms 81:4-5*

*Awake from your slumber, and rouse yourselves from your lethargy. Scrutinize your deeds and return in repentance. Remember your Creator, you who forget eternal truth in the trifles of the hour, who go astray after vain illusions which can neither profit nor deliver. Carefully examine your souls; mend your ways and your actions; forsake the evil path and unworthy purposes. Return to God, so that He may have mercy upon you.*

*Maimonides*

מִן־הַמָּצָר קָרָאתִי יְהוָה עֲנֵנִי בְמַרְחֹב יָהּ:  
קוֹלִי שָׁמַעְתָּ אֱלֹהֵי־תְעֹלָם אֲזַנְךָ לְרוֹחֹתַי לְשׁוֹעָתִי:  
רֵאשִׁיד־בְּרַךְ אָמֵת וְלַעוֹלָם כָּל־מִשְׁפַּט צְדָקָךָ:  
עָרַב עִבְדְּךָ לְטוֹב אֱלֹהֵי־עֲשֵׂקָנִי יְדִים:  
שֵׁשׁ אֲנֹכִי עַל־אֲמַרְתְּךָ כְּמוֹצֵא שְׂלָל רָב:  
טוֹב טַעַם וְדַעַת לְמַדְנִי כִּי בְמִצְוֹתֶיךָ הִיאֲמַנְתִּי:  
נְדָבוֹת פִּי רָצִיתִי יְיָ וּמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לְמַדְנִי:

In my distress I cried out to the Lord;  
He answered me and set me free.

You have heard my voice;  
Do not turn away from my cry of distress.

The beginning of Your word is truth;  
Your righteous judgments are everlasting.

Protect me, O Lord;  
Let not the arrogant oppress me.

I rejoice over Your word,  
Like one who finds great treasure.

Grant me discernment and knowledge,  
For I have put my trust in Your commandments.

Accept the offerings of my lips, O Lord,  
And teach me Your laws.

*Biblical verses*

*Continue on page 244 or on page 248.*

---

## The sound of the Shofar



May the sound of the Shofar shatter our complacency  
And make us conscious of the corruptions in our lives.

*May the sound of the Shofar penetrate our souls,  
And cause us to turn to our Father in Heaven.*

May the sound of the Shofar break the bonds of our  
enslavement to the evil impulse,  
And enable us to serve the Lord with a whole heart.

*May the sound of the Shofar renew our loyalty to the  
one true King*

*And strengthen our determination to defy the false gods.*

May the sound of the Shofar awaken us to the enormity of  
our sins,

And the vastness of God's mercy for those who truly repent.

*May the sound of the Shofar summon us to service  
And stir us to respond, as did Abraham, "Here am I."*

May the sound of the Shofar recall the moment  
When we stood at Mount Sinai and uttered the promise:  
"All that the Lord has spoken, we will keep and obey."

*May the sound of the Shofar recall the promise of  
the ingathering of the exiles,*

*And stir within us renewed devotion to the Land of Israel.*

May the sound of the Shofar recall the vision of the prophets,  
Of the day when all people will live in peace.

*May the sound of the Shofar awaken us to the flight of time,  
And summon us to spend our days with purpose.*

May the sound of the Shofar remind us that it is time to  
"Proclaim liberty throughout the land  
To all the inhabitants thereof."

*May the sound of the Shofar become our jubilant shout of joy  
On the day of the promised, long-awaited redemption.*

May the sound of the Shofar enter our hearts;  
For blessed is the people that hearkens to its call.

Hershel J. Matt

---

## Tekiat Shofar

Give heed to the sound of the Shofar,  
The sharp, piercing blasts of the Shofar,  
Rending the air with its message,  
Its call for wholehearted repentance;  
Summoning us to our Father  
To render Him true devotion.

Renounce your sins and transgressions,  
False aims and unworthy striving;  
Fill your hearts with a new spirit  
Of loving concern and forgiveness.  
Give heed to the sound of the Shofar,  
The blast that is blown, O my people.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ  
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְשִׁמֵּעַ קוֹל שׁוֹפָר:  
:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ  
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה:  
:

Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has taught us the way of holiness through the Mitzvot, and has commanded us to hear the sound of the Shofar.

Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

*The Shofar is sounded:*

תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה

Give heed to the sound of the Shofar,  
The *shrill, quiv'ring notes* of the Shofar,  
Sounding its message of warning,  
Its cry of alarm and awakening;  
Urging us to labor together  
To combat war and violence.

Accept the challenge to battle  
Against fear, hate, and destruction.  
Remove from your midst all oppression,  
Banish all greed and contention.  
*Give heed to the sound of the Shofar,  
The blast that is blown, O my people.*

*The Shofar is sounded:*

תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּקִיעָה

Give heed to the sound of the Shofar,  
The *loud clarion call* of the Shofar,  
Bringing new hope to the suffering,  
And strength to those stricken with sorrow;  
Bringing to Israel assurance  
Of healing, peace, and redemption.

Renew your faith and devotion  
To God's Torah, People, and Land.  
Remember the Covenant and fashion  
A kingdom of law and compassion.  
*Give heed to the sound of the Shofar,  
The blast that is blown, O my people.*

*The Shofar is sounded:*

תְּקִיעָה תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה גְדוּלָה תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה

אֲשֶׁרֵי הָעַם יוֹדְעֵי תְּרוּעָה.  
יְיָ בְּאוֹר־פְּנֵיךָ יִהְלִכּוּן:

*Ashrey ha-am yod'ey teruah,  
Adonai b'or paneha y'haleyhun.*

Blessed are the people who hear in the Shofar  
A summons to walk by the light of Your presence.

*(An alternate Shofar service begins on page 248.)*



## The calls of the Shofar



For untold generations, on this day, our ancestors listened to the sound of the Shofar. What did they hear in its piercing tones? What solemn truths did they detect in its calls which stirred them so profoundly each year?

*And what does the Shofar say to us today, as we stand at the dawn of the New Year, groping for a light to guide us and a faith to sustain us?*

**Tekiah! Awake!** Let not habit dull your minds, nor comfort harden your hearts. Examine your deeds, look well into your soul, mend your ways, turn to God.

*As we hear the sharp Tekiah blast, let us rouse ourselves from smugness and self-satisfaction, from callousness and self-righteousness.*

**Shevarim! The broken refrain!** Listen to the staccato cry. Hear the echoes of sighing and weeping. The deprived and the distressed, the neglected and the enslaved, the bruised and the broken—all cry out for relief from their pain, for release from their torment.

*As we hear the anguished wail of Shevarim, let us open our ears to the cries of the afflicted and the oppressed, and let our hearts respond with compassion and love.*

**Teruah!** The call to battle is sounded: Join the struggle against evil and suffering. Give of your bread to those who hunger; give of your strength to those who stumble; give of your time to the lonely and forsaken; heal the wounded; comfort the bereaved.

*Let us hearken to the Teruah's call to action.  
For in our hands, in our hearts, and in our minds  
Are the means for building a better world,  
For fulfilling the promise of peace and justice,  
And for hastening the day when all will hear  
The sound of the great Shofar of liberation.*

Milton Steinberg (adapted)

## Tekiat Shofar

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ  
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לִשְׁמֹעַ קוֹל שׁוֹפָר:  
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה:

Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has taught us the way of holiness through the Mitzvot, and has commanded us to hear the sound of the Shofar.

Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

*The Shofar is sounded:*

תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה

תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה שְׁבָרִים תְּקִיעָה

תְּקִיעָה תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה  
תְּקִיעָה תְּרוּעָה תְּקִיעָה גְּדוּלָה

אֲשֶׁרֵי הָעָם יוֹדְעֵי תְּרוּעָה. יי בְּאוֹר־פְּנֵיךָ יִהְיֶה לָנוּ:

Blessed are the people who hear in the Shofar  
A summons to walk by the light of Your presence.

אֲשֶׁר יוֹשְׁבֵי בֵיתְךָ      עוֹד יִהְלְלוּךָ סֵלָה:  
אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה הָעָם שֹׁכֵן לְךָ      אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה הָעָם שֵׁנִי אֱלֹהִיו:

תהלה לדוד

אֲרוֹמְמֶךָ אֱלֹהֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ      וְאֲבָרְכֶךָ שִׁמְךָ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:  
בְּכָל־יּוֹם אֲבָרְכֶךָ      וְאֶהְלֵלְךָ שִׁמְךָ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:  
גָּדוֹל יְיָ וּמְהֻלָּל מְאֹד      וְלִגְדֻלְתּוֹ אֵין חֶקֶר:  
דָּוָר לְדָוָר יִשְׁבַּח מַעֲשֶׂיךָ      וְגִבּוֹרֵתֶיךָ יִגְדֹּדוּ:  
הַדָּר כְּבוֹד הַדָּר      וְדַבְּרֵי נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ אֲשִׁיחָה:  
וְעֲזוֹז נִרְאֵתֶיךָ יֹאמְרוּ      וְגִדְלָתְךָ אִסְפְּרֶנָּה:  
וְזָכַר רַב־טוֹבֶךָ יִבְיָעוּ      וְצִדְקָתְךָ יִרְנְנוּ:  
חֲנוּן וְרַחוּם יְיָ      אֲרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְגִדְל־חֶסֶד:  
טוֹבֵי יְיָ לְכָל־יְהוָה יְיָ כָּל־מַעֲשֶׂיךָ      וְרַחֲמָיו עַל־כָּל־מַעֲשָׂיו:  
כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתְךָ יֹאמְרוּ      וְגִבּוֹרֵתְךָ יִדְבְּרוּ:  
לְהוֹדִיעַ לְבַנֵּי הָאָדָם גִּבּוֹרֵתִי      וְכְבוֹד הַדָּר מְלָכוֹתָו:  
מְלָכוֹתְךָ מְלָכוֹת כָּל־עֲלָמִים      וּמִמְשַׁלְתְּךָ בְּכָל־דָּוָר וָדָר:  
סוֹמֵךְ יְיָ לְכָל־הַנְּפֹלִים      וְזוֹקֵף לְכָל־הַכְּפוּפִים:

**ASHREY**

Happy are they who dwell in Your house;  
Forever shall they praise You.

*Happy is the people so favored;  
Happy is the people whose God is the Lord.*

A PSALM OF DAVID.

I extol You, my God, my King,  
I will praise You for ever and ever.

*Every day I praise You,  
Glorifying You forever.*

Great is the Lord, eminently to be praised;  
His greatness cannot be fathomed.

*One generation to another lauds Your works,  
Recounting Your mighty deeds.*

They speak of the splendor of Your majesty  
And of Your glorious works.

*They tell of Your awesome acts,  
Declaring Your greatness.*

They recount Your abundant goodness,  
Celebrating Your righteousness.

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
Exceedingly patient, abounding in love.*

The Lord is good to all,  
His tenderness embraces all His works.

*All Your creatures shall thank You.  
And Your faithful shall praise You.*

They shall speak of the glory of Your dominion,  
Proclaiming Your power.

*That all may know of Your might,  
The splendor of Your kingship.*

Your sovereignty is everlasting,  
Your dominion endures for all generations.

*The Lord supports all who stumble;  
He makes all who are bent stand straight.*

עִינֵיכֶם אֵלָיִךְ יִשְׁבְּרוּ. וְאַתֶּם נוֹתְדִלְהֶם אֶת־אֲכָלֶם בְּעֵתוֹ:  
 פֹּתַח אֶת־יָדְךָ וּמִשְׁבִּיעַ לְכָל־חַי רִצּוֹן:  
 צַדִּיק יִּי בְּכָל־דְּרָכָיו וְחָסִיד בְּכָל־מַעֲשָׂיו:  
 קָרוֹב יִּי לְכָל־קֹרְאָיו לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָאֵהוּ בְּאֵמֶת:  
 רִצּוֹן־רָאִיו יַעֲשֶׂה וְאֶת־שׁוֹעֲתָם יִשְׁמַע וְיוֹשִׁיעֵם:  
 שׁוֹמֵר יִּי אֶת־כָּל־אֲהָבָיו וְאֵת כָּל־הַרְשָׁעִים יִשְׁמִיד:  
 תִּהְיֶה לָּךְ יִּי יְדִבְרֵי־פִי וְיִבְרַךְ כָּל־בָּשָׂר שֵׁם קָדְשׁוֹ  
 לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

וְאֲנַחְנוּ נִבְרַךְ יְהוָה מֵעַתָּה וְעַד־עוֹלָם. הַלְלוּיָהּ:

#### RETURNING THE SCROLLS TO THE ARK

Reader:

יְהַלְלוּ אֶת־שֵׁם יְיָ. כִּי־נִשְׁנַב שְׁמוֹ לְבָדוֹ—

Congregation:

הוֹדוּ עַל־אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמַיִם:  
 וַיְרַם קֶרֶן לְעַמּוֹ. תִּהְיֶה לְכָל־חַסִּידָיו.  
 לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עִם קָרוֹבוֹ. הַלְלוּיָהּ:

*Hodo al eretz v'shama-yim.*

*Va-yarem keren l'amo, t'hila l'hol hasidav,*

*li-v'ney yisrael am k'rovo, Hallelujah.*

The eyes of all look hopefully to You;  
You give them their food when it is due.

*You open Your hand,  
You satisfy the needs of all the living.*

The Lord is beneficent in all His ways,  
He is loving in all His deeds.

*The Lord is near to all who call to Him,  
To all who call to Him in truth.*

He fulfills the desire of those who revere Him;  
He hears their cry and delivers them.

*The Lord preserves all who love Him,  
But all the wicked He will destroy.*

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,  
Let all beings praise Him forever.

*We shall praise the Lord,  
Now and evermore. Hallelujah.*

Psalms 94:5, 144:15, 145, 115:18

#### **RETURNING THE SCROLLS TO THE ARK**

*Reader:*

“Praise the Lord, for He alone is exalted.”

*Congregation:*

“His glory is revealed on earth and in the heavens.  
He has raised the honor of His people,  
the glory of His faithful.

He exalted the Children of Israel,  
the people near to Him. Hallelujah.”

מזמור לדוד

הבו לי בני אלים      הבו לי כבוד ועז:  
הבו לי כבוד שמו      השתחוו לי בהדרת־קדש:  
קול יי על־המים      אלה־הכבוד הרעים  
יי על־מים רבים:  
קול־יי בפתח      קול יי בהדר:  
קול יי שבר ארזים      וישבר יי את־ארזי הלבנון:  
וירקידם כמו־עגל      לבנון ושריון כמו בדראמים:  
קול־יי חצב להבות אש:  
קול יי יחיל מדבר      יחיל יי מדבר קדש:  
קול יי יחולל אילות      ויחשף יערות ובהיכלו  
כלו אמר כבוד:  
יי למבול ישב      וישב יי מלך לעולם:  
יי עז לעמו ימן      יי יברך את־עמו בשלום:

On Shabbat:

Mizmor l'David.

Havu la-donai b'ney eylim,  
Havu la-donai kavod va-oz.  
Havu la-donai k'vod sh'mo,  
Hish-taḥavu la-donai b'had-rat kodesh.

Kol Adonai al ha-ma-yim,  
Eyl ha-kavod hir-im,  
Adonai al ma-yim rabim.

Kol Adonai ba-koah,  
Kol Adonai be-hadar.  
Kol Adonai shoveyr arazim,  
Va-y'shabeyr Adonai et arzey ha-l'vanon.

Va-yar-kideym k'mo eygel,  
L'vanon v'sir-yon k'mo ven r'eymim.

Kol Adonai ḥotzeyv la-havot eysh.  
Kol Adonai yaḥil midbar,  
Yaḥil Adonai midbar kadeysh.

Kol Adonai y'holeyl aya-lot va-yeḥe-sof y'arot,  
Uv-hey-ḥalo kulo omeyr kavod.

Adonai la-mabul ya-shav,  
Va-yey-shev Adonai meleḥ l'olam.

Adonai oz l'amo yiteyn,  
Adonai y'vareyh et amo va-shalom.

Psalm 29

Praise the Lord for His glory and for His power.  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
The voice of the Lord is mighty;  
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.  
May the Lord give strength to His people;  
May the Lord bless His people with peace.

*Selected from Psalm 29*



On a weekday:

לְדוֹר מִזְמוֹר

לְיַי הָאֲרֶז וּמְלוֹאָה  
תִּבֵּל וַיִּשְׁבִּי בָהּ:  
כִּי־הוּא עַל־יָמַי יְסֻדָּה  
וְעַל־נְהַרֹת יְכוּנְנָה:  
מִי־יַעֲלֶה בְּהַר יְיָ  
וּמִי־יָקוּם בְּמִקְוֵם קָדְשׁוֹ:  
נָקִי כַפַּיִם וּבֶרֶךְ לֵבָב  
אֲשֶׁר לֹא־נִשְׂא לִשְׂוֹא נַפְשִׁי  
וְלֹא נִשְׁבַּע לְמַרְמָה:

יֵשׂא בִּרְכָה מֵאֵת יְיָ  
וְצִדְקָה מֵאֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:  
זֶה דֹר דִּרְשׁוֹ  
מִבְּקִשֵׁי פְּנֵיךָ יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:  
שְׂאוּ שְׁעָרַיִם רְאשֵׁיכֶם  
וְהִנֵּשְׂאוּ פִתְחֵי עוֹלָם  
וַיָּבֹא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד:

מִי זֶה מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד  
יְיָ עֲזוֹ וְגִבּוֹר

יְיָ גִבּוֹר מִלְחָמָה:

שְׂאוּ שְׁעָרַיִם רְאשֵׁיכֶם  
וּשְׂאוּ פִתְחֵי עוֹלָם

וַיָּבֹא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד:

מִי הוּא זֶה מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד  
יְיָ צְבָאוֹת

הוּא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד סֵלָה:

Se-u sh'arim ro-shey-hem, v'hinasu pit-hey olam,  
V'yavo meleḥ ha-kavod.

Mi zeh meleḥ ha-kavod, Adonai izuz v'gibor,  
Adonai gibor mil-ḥama.

Se-u sh'arim ro-shey-hem, us-u pit-hey olam,  
V'yavo meleḥ ha-kavod.

Mi hu zeh meleḥ ha-kavod,  
Adonai tz'vaot hu meleḥ ha-kavod, Selah.

*On a weekday:*

A PSALM OF DAVID.

The earth is the Lord's, and its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell in it.

*For it is He who founded it upon the seas,  
And established it upon the waters.*

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand in His holy place?

*One who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who does not strive after vanity,  
And does not swear deceitfully;*

Thus meriting a blessing from the Lord,  
And vindication from the God of deliverance.

*Such are the people who seek Him,  
Who seek the presence of the God of Jacob.*

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
Lift up high, you ancient doors!  
Let the King of Glory enter!

*Who is the King of Glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
The Lord valiant in battle.*

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
Lift them up, you ancient doors!  
Let the King of Glory enter!

*Who is the King of Glory?  
The Lord of hosts; He is the King of Glory.*

*Psalm 24*

*As the Torah Scrolls are placed in the Ark, recite:*

וּבְנִיחָה יֹאמֶר שׁוֹבָה יְיָ רַבְבוֹת אֱלֹפֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:  
קוֹמָה יְיָ לְמַנוּחָתְךָ אֶתָּה וְאֶרְוֹן עֵינֶיךָ:  
כְּהִנֵּיךָ יִלְבָּשׁוּ צַדִּיק וְחַסִּידֶיךָ יִרְנְנוּ:  
בְּעֵבוֹר דָּוָד עֲבַדְךָ אֶל־תָּשֵׁב פְּנֵי מְשִׁיחֶךָ:  
כִּי לָקַח טוֹב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם תּוֹרַתִי אֶל־תַּעֲזָבוּ:  
עֵינַיִים הֵיא לְמַחְזִיקִים בָּהּ וְתַמְכִּיחַ מְאֹשֶׁר:  
דְּרָכֶיךָ דְרָכֵינֵעַם וְכִלְנֵיתִיבְתִיחַ שְׁלוֹם:  
הַשִּׁיבֵנו יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְנָשׁוּבָה חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם:

*Ki lekaḥ tov na-tati lahem, torati al ta-azovu.*

*Eytz ḥa-yim hi la-maḥa-zikim bah,*

*V'tom-ḥeha m'u-sar.*

*D'raḥeha darḥey no-am, v'ḥol n'tivo-teha shalom.*

*Ha-shiveynu Adonai eyleḥa v'na-shuva,*

*Ḥadeysh yameynu k'kedem.*

*As the Torah Scrolls are placed in the Ark, recite:*

When the Ark was set down, Moses prayed: "O Lord, dwell among the myriad families of Israel." Come up, O Lord, to Your sanctuary, together with the Ark of Your glory. Let Your Kohanim be clothed in righteousness, let Your faithful ones rejoice.

I have given you precious teaching,  
Forsake not My Torah.

It is a tree of life to those who cling to it,  
Blessed are they who uphold it.

Its ways are ways of pleasantness,  
All its paths are peace.

Turn us to You, O Lord, and we shall return;  
Renew us as in days of old.

*Biblical verses*

#### **MEDITATION**

🌿 O Lord, standing before these sacred scrolls at the beginning of the new year, we renew the ancient covenant, speaking again the words of our ancestors: "All that the Lord has spoken we will do."

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank You for Your Torah, our priceless heritage. May the portion we have read today inspire us to do Your will and to seek further knowledge of Your word. Thus our minds will be enriched and our lives endowed with purpose. May we take to heart Your laws by which we can truly live. Happy are all who love You and delight in fulfilling Your commandments. Amen.

## To go forward in hope



O God, source of our strength,  
Who gives meaning to our days and years,  
Help us to feel Your presence—

*In the marvelous beauty which we see,  
In worthy deeds which are done,  
In opportunities for service which beckon.*

Above the clamor and the tedium in our lives,  
Help us to sense Your power and nearness—

*In great thoughts and in noble hopes,  
In expressions of love and in moments of joy,  
In all striving for justice and truth.*

As we look ahead to a year of unknown tomorrows,  
Mindful of our frailties and weaknesses,  
Acknowledging our anxieties and our doubts—

*Help us to go forward unafraid,  
With hope renewed, confidence restored,*

Knowing that Your power and creative love,  
Which in bygone years  
Wrought wondrous deeds and noble lives,

*Will yet bring forth new grace and beauty,  
Will yet inspire new deeds of righteousness  
In the new year which now begins.*

## To do these things now

🕊 As we begin the new year we thank You, O God, for the privilege of greeting it; and we pray for the guidance to live it fully.

Help us, during the coming year, to do all the fine things which we meant to do “some day,” but which we have postponed and neglected.

If we have been waiting to show someone a kindness, to speak a kind word, to make an overdue visit—let us do these things now.

If we have been waiting to perform an act of charity, to discharge a duty, to assume a responsibility—let us do these things now.

If we have been waiting to uproot a debasing habit, to set aside a festering hatred, to discipline and take charge of our lives—let us do these things now.

Your years, O God, have no measure; but You have set a limit to our days upon earth. So help us to treasure each precious moment. Help us to proceed with all haste to do now—this day, this week, this year, all the things which will make the new year a year of achievement, growth, and blessing.