

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha Prayers

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha prayers are obligatory during the time of Imam al-Mahdi (as), and it is necessary to offer them in congregation. However during the present times when the Holy Imam is in occultation, these prayers are *mustahab* (recommended), and may be offered individually as well as in congregation

The time for Eid prayers is from sunrise till *duhr* (noon). It is *mustahab* that Eid al-Adha prayer is offered after sunrise. As for Eid al-Fitr, it is *mustahab* that one should have a breakfast after sunrise, pay *Zakat* (almsgiving) *al-Fitr* and then offer Eid prayers.

Eid prayers have two *rak'ats* (bowing).

In the first *rak'at*, a person should recite Sura al-Hamd and another Sura, and then say five *takbirs* (Allahu-Akbar), and after every *takbir* he should recite *qunut* (raising of the hands in supplication).

After the fifth *qunut*, he should say another *takbir* and then perform *ruku* (bowing) and two *sajdah* (prostration).

He should then stand up and say four *takbirs* in the second *rak'at*, and recite *qunut* after each *takbir*.

Thereafter, he should say the fifth *takbir* and then perform *ruku* and two *sajdah*. After the second *sajdah* he should recite *tashahhud*, and then complete the prayers with Salam.

Any recital or *dua* (supplication) will suffice in *qunut* of the Eid Prayers. However, it is better that the following *dua* be recited:

Allahumma ahlal kibriya'i wal 'azamah, wa ahlal judi wal jaburat, wa ahlal 'afwi war rahmah, wa ahlal taqwa wal maghfirah. As aluka bihaqqi hazal yawmil lazi ja'altahu lil muslimina 'ida, wali Muhammadin sal lal lahu 'Alaihi wa Alihi, zukhran wa sharafan wa karamatan wa mazida an tusalliya 'ala Muhammad wa Ali Muhammad wa an tudkhillani fi kulli khayrin adkhalta fih Muhammadan wa Ala Muhammad wa an tukhrijani min kulli su'in akhrajta minhu Muhammadan wa Ala Muhammad salawatuka 'alahi wa 'alahim. Alla humma inni as aluka khayra ma sa alaka bihi ibadukas salihun, wa auzubika mim masta aza minhu ibadukal mukhlasun.

During the period of occultation of Imam al-Mahdi (as), it is an obligatory precaution that two sermons (*khutbas*) be delivered after Eid prayers, and it is better that on Eid al-Fitr, the sermons should explain rules regarding *Zakat al-Fitr*, and on Eid al-Adha, rules regarding sacrificing the animals be explained.

No particular Sura has been specified for Eid prayers. But, it is better that after reciting Sura al-Hamd in the first *rak'at*, Sura Wa`sh Shams be recited and in the second *rak'at* Sura al-Ghashiya. Or in the first *rak'at*, to recite Sura of Sabbi Hism, and in the second *rak'at* Sura Wa`sh Shams.

It is recommended that Eid prayers be performed in the open fields. However, in Mekkah, it is *mustahab* that it should be offered in Mesjid al-Haram (Ka'bah).

It is *mustahab* that in Eid prayers *sajdah* be performed on earth, and hands to be raised while saying *takbirs*. It is also *mustahab* that a person, who is offering Eid prayers alone, or as an Imam of the congregation, recites prayers loudly.

It is *mustahab* that the following *takbirs* be said on the eve of Eid al-Fitr night (i.e. night preceding the Eid day), after *maghrib* (sunset) and *isha* (night) prayers, and on Eid day after *fajr* prayers, as well as after Eid al-Fitr prayers: "*Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, la ilaha illal lahu wallahu akbar, Allahu Akbar, wa lilla hil hamd, Allahu akbar ala ma hadana.*"

In Eid al-Adha, it is *mustahab* that the above-mentioned *takbirs* be said after ten prayers, of which the first is the *duhr* prayers of Eid day and the last is the *fajr* (pre-sunrise) of 12th Dhul al-Hajj. It is also *mustahab* that after the above-mentioned *takbirs*, the following be recited: "*Allahu Akbar 'ala ma razaqana min bahimatil an 'am, wal hamdu lil lahi ala ma ablana.*"

If, a person happens to be in Mina on the day of Eid al-Adha, it is *mustahab* that he should say these *takbirs* after fifteen prayers, of which the first is *duhr* prayers of Eid day, and the last is the *fajr* prayers of the 13th of Dhul al-Hajj.

Like in all other prayers, the follower should recite everything in the Eid prayers, except Sura al-Hamd and the other Sura.

If a follower joins the prayers at a time when the Imam has already said some *takbirs*, he should, while the Imam performs *ruku*, say all the *takbirs* and *qunut* which he has missed, and it will be sufficient if in each *qunut* he says: *Sub-han`Allah* or *Al-hamdu lillah* only.

If a person joins the Eid prayers when the Imam is in *ruku*, he can make *niyyat* (intention), say the first *takbir* of the prayers, and then go into *ruku*.

If a person forgets one *sajdah* in Eid prayers, he should perform it after the prayers. Similarly, if something takes place for which a *sajadatus sahv* would be necessary after daily prayers, it will also be necessary after the Eid prayers.