

*In the Name of Allah, the Infinitely Compassionate, the Most Merciful.*

## How to Perform the Daily Prayers

It is obligatory to perform the following five prayers every day during the prescribed times:

- ❑ *Salat al-Fajr* (Pre-Dawn prayer), which consist of two units (each unit of prayer is called a *rak`ah*)
- ❑ *Salat al-Dhur* (Midday prayer) consisting of four units.
- ❑ *Salat al-`Asr* (Afternoon prayer) consisting of four units.
- ❑ *Salat al-Maghrib* (Post-Dusk/Sunset prayer) which consist of three units.
- ❑ *Salat al-`Isha* (Night prayer) consisting of four units.

Performing the daily prayers according to the Shi'ah Ja'fari School of Law involves taking prescribed steps in order (*tartib*) and in regular succession without undue delay between them (*muwalat*). The person must first perform preliminary purification (*ghusl*, if necessary, or *wudhu*) and fulfil all other prerequisites.

### Preparation

Stand upright facing the *Qiblah* (direction of Mekkah) and recite the *adhan* and *iqama*. Please note that all the recitations during the prayer must be in Arabic. Although approximate transliteration has been given below for each recitation, it is best to try and learn the Arabic script and pronunciations.

**Niyah** : Form the following solemn intention in your mind: “**I offer this \_\_\_\_\_** (name of a particular prayer) **prayer, of \_\_\_\_\_** (number of units) ***rak`ahs* seeking closeness to God.**”

### The First *Rak`ah*

**Takbiratul Ihram** : Lift both hands up to the ears and say:

**Allaahu Akbar.**  
*God is Greatest.*

This sentence, the **Takbir**, will be repeated several times during the prayer.

**Qiyam** : Remain in the standing position while performing the recitations in the next step, *Qira'ah*.

**Qira'ah** : Initially, recite the first Sura of the Holy Qur'an, *al-Fatiha*.



**Bismillaahi'r-Rahmaani'r-Raheem.**

**Al-hamdu lillaahi rabbil-  
`aalameen,  
Arrahmaanir raheem,  
Maaliki yawmid-deen,  
Iyyaaka na`budu wa iyyaaka  
nasta`een,  
Ihdinas-siraat al-mustaqeem,  
siraat al-ladheena an`amta  
`alayhim  
ghayril maghdoobi `alayhim  
wa la`d-daalleen.**

*In the Name of God, the Merciful, the  
Compassionate.*

*Praise belongs to God, Lord of the World, the  
Merciful, the Compassionate, Master of the Day  
of Judgement;*

*We worship only You, and from You alone do we  
seek help.*

*Lead us on the straight path, the path of those  
whom You have blessed, not of those on whom is  
[Your] Wrath, nor of those who have gone astray.*

Second, recite another complete Sura of the Holy Qur'an (we choose the short Sura 112, *al-Ikhlās*).

**Bismillaahi'r-Rahmaani'r-Raheem.**

**Qul huwallaahu ahad,  
Allaahus samad,  
Lam yalid walam yoolad  
Wa lam yakullahu kufuwan  
ahad.**

*In the Name of God, the Merciful, the  
Compassionate.*

*Say: 'He is God, the One,  
God the Eternal and Besought of all,  
Neither begetting nor begot, Nor is there anything  
comparable or equal to Him.*

**Ruku`** : After completing the second Sura, the worshipper would say the *Takbir* (see above) and then bow down until the hands can be placed on the knees. The following *dhikr* (glorification) should be recited once in this position:



**Subhaana rabbiy al-`azeemi wa bihamdih.**

*Glory be to my Lord, the Great, and praise belongs to Him.*

Resume the standing position and recite:

**Sami` allaahu liman hamidah.**  
*God hears the one who praises Him.*

Say *Takbir*, then go into Prostration (*sujud*).

**Sujud** means that one should place one's forehead on earth in a special manner, with the intention of humility before God.



While performing the *sujud*, it is obligatory that both the palms and the knees, and both the big toes be placed on the ground. The following *dhikr* should be recited in the *sujud* once:

**Subhaana rabbiy al-a`laa wa bihamdih.**  
*Glory be to my Exalted Lord, and praise belongs to Him.*



After first *sujud*, raise the forehead and sit up in a kneeling position with the ankle of the right foot in the sole of the left foot, with hands resting on the thighs and say *Takbir*, optionally followed by:

**Astaghfirullaaha rabbee wa atoobu ilayh.**  
*I ask forgiveness of God, my Lord, and turn towards Him.*

followed by *Takbir* again. Repeat the *sujud* again and then sit up in a kneeling position and say *Takbir*.

Sit up for a moment and then rise while (optionally) saying:

**Bihawllillaahi wa quwwatihi aqoomu wa aq`ud.**  
*With God's help and through His power I stand and sit.*

### **Second Rak`ah**

After regaining the upright posture, recite Sura *al-Fatiha* and another Sura of the Holy Qur'an as in the first *rak`ah*. Then say *Takbir*, and then do *Qunut*.

**Qunut** : Keep your hands in front of your face, turning the palms facing upwards, and keeping both the hands and the fingers close together. Recite the following:



**Rabbanaa aatinaa fi`d-dunyaa hasanatan, wa fi`l-aakhirati hasanatan, wa qinaa `adhaab an-naar.**  
*O our Lord! Bestow upon us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and protect us from the torment of the fire.*  
[Qur'an, Sura 2, verse 201]

[Note: *Qunut* is an optional step]

Say *Takbir*, followed by the *ruku`*, then the two *sujud*, both as described for the first *rak`ah*.

Tashahhud : After the second prostration resume the kneeling position, and recite:

**Ash hadu al laa ilaaha  
illallaahu wahdahu laa  
shareeka lah,  
wa ash hadu anna  
Muhammadan `abduhu wa  
rasuluh.  
Allaahumma salli `alaa  
Muhammadin wa Aali  
Muhammad.**

*I bear witness that there is no god apart from  
Allah, Who is unique and without partners.  
I also bear witness that Muhammad is His  
servant and His Prophet.  
O God, bless Muhammad and the progeny of  
Muhammad.*

If you are performing the *Fajr* (Dawn) prayer, please skip the rest and go to section entitled **Completion**.

If you are performing the *Duhr* (Midday), *`Asr* (Afternoon), *Maghrib* (Dusk), or *`Isha* (Night) prayer, continue by standing up for the third unit while reciting ***Bihawllillahi....*** as described at the end of the section **First Rak`ah**.

### **Third Rak`ah**

**At-Tasbihat al-Arba`ah** : After regaining the upright posture, either recite Sura *al-Fatiha*, or recite *al-Tasbihat al-Arba`ah* three times, as follows:

**Subhaanallaahi wa'l hamdu lillaahi wa laa ilaaha illallaahu wallaahu Akbar.**  
*Glory be to God, and praise be to God; there is no god but Allah, and Allah is Greater.*

Perform the *ruku`*, stand up momentarily and then do the two *sujud*. This is exactly as described under section **First Rak`ah**. If you are performing the *Maghrib* (Dusk/Post Sunset) prayers, recite the *Tashahhud* next. Then skip the rest and go to **Completion**.

If you are performing the *Duhr* (Midday), *`Asr* (Afternoon), or *`Isha* (Night) prayer, continue by standing up for the fourth *rak`ah* while reciting ***Bihawllillahi....*** as described at the end of the section **First Rak`ah**.

### **Fourth Rak`ah**

This is identical to the third *rak`ah*. After the second prostration resume the kneeling position, and recite the *Tashahhud*.

### **Completion**

After reciting the *Tashahhud* of the final *rak`ah*, recite the **Taslim** (*Salutation*) which completes your prayer:

**Assalaamu `alayka ayyuhan  
nabiyyu wa rahmatullaahi wa  
barakaatuh.  
Assalamu `alaynaa wa `alaa  
`ibaadillaahis saaliheen.  
Assalamu `alaykum wa  
rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh.**

*Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and God's  
mercy and blessing.  
Peace be upon us, and upon the righteous  
servants of God.  
Peace be upon you [all], and God's mercy and  
blessing.*

Thereafter (optionally) say *Takbir* three times.