



Grace after meals -

Reciting Birkat Hamazon

וְאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבַעְתָּ וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עַל־הָאָרֶץ הַטֹּבָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָךְ:

When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. Deut. 8:10

Jews normally do not say “grace” *before* meals (as do many Christians), but rather *after* they have eaten. They do not “bless” the food, either, but rather acknowledge that God is the One who provides for their sustenance.

The dinner table is an altar before the LORD where we partake of other sacrificed life forms so that we ourselves might live. Therefore, after we eat our meals we offer our thanks to God for His provision and care.

The full grace said after meals, called *Birkat Hamazon*, is a rather long prayer that involves several blessings (see a good Siddur for the entire recitation). An alternative, shorter version is provided here (it is actually the first part of the entire blessing):



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הֵינָן אַתָּה הָעוֹלָם כֹּל בְּטוֹבוֹ, בְּחֵן בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרַחֲמִים.
הוּא נוֹתֵן לָחֵם לְכָל־בָּשָׂר, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד.
וּבְטוֹבוֹ הַגָּדוֹל תָּמִיד לֹא חָסַר לָנוּ וְאֵל
יִחָסַר לָנוּ מִזֶּמֶן לְעוֹלָם וָעַד, בְּעֵבֹר שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל.
כִּי הוּא אֵל זֶן וּמַפְרִיֵּס לְכָל, וּמַטִּיב לְכָל, וּמַכִּין
מִזֶּמֶן לְכָל־בְּרִיּוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
הֵינָן אַתָּה הַכֹּל. אָמֵן.

Blessed are you, LORD our God, master of the universe, Who nourishes the whole world in goodness, with grace, kindness, and compassion. He gives bread to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever. And through His great goodness we have never lacked, nor will we lack food forever, for the sake of His great Name. For He is God, who nourishes and sustains all, and does good to all, and prepares food for all His creatures which He created. Blessed are You, LORD, who nourishes all. Amen.



Transliterated:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

ha-'o-lam me-lekh e-lo-hey-nu Adonai 'at-tah ba-ruk
the universe king (of) our God Lord are you Blessed

הַזֵּן אֶת הָעוֹלָם כֹּל בְּטוֹבוֹ, בְּחֵן בְּחֶסֶד וּבְרַחֲמִים.

uv-ra-cha-mim be-che-sed be-chen be-tu-vo kul-lo ha-olam et hazzan
with grace, kindness, and compassion in goodness who nourishes the whole world

הוּא נוֹתֵן לֶחֶם לְכָל-בָּשָׂר, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדּוֹ.

chas-do le-o-lam ki le-khol-ba-sar le-chem no-tein hu
His mercy endures forever for to all flesh bread gives He

וּבְטוֹבוֹ הַגָּדוֹל תָּמִיד לֹא חָסַר לָנוּ

la-nu cha-seir lo ta-mid hag-ga-dol uv-tu-vo
we have never lacked And through His great goodness

וְאֵל יַחְסַר לָנוּ מִזֶּן לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד,

va-ed le-o-lam ma-zon la-nu yech-sar ve-al
forever and we will not lack food

בְּעִבּוֹר שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל. כִּי הוּא אֵל זֵן וּמְפָרֵס לְכֹל,

la-kol um-far-neis zan el hu ki hag-ga-dol she-mo ba-a-vur
who nourishes and sustains all God He is for His great Name for the sake

וּמַטִּיב לְכֹל, וּמַכִּין מִזֶּן לְכָל-בְּרִיּוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא.

ba-ra a-sher le-khol b'ri-yo-tav ma-zon u-mei-khin la-kol u-mei-tiv
He created which for all His creatures and prepares food and does good to all

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה הַזֵּן אֶת הַכֹּל. אָמֵן.

a-mein hak-kol et haz-zan Adonai 'at-tah ba-ruk
Amen who nourishes all LORD are you Blessed



Hebrew with Transliteration:



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
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 יִחְסַר לָנוּ מִזֶּן לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד, בְּעִבּוּר שְׁמוֹ הַגָּדוֹל.
 כִּי הוּא אֵל זָן וּמְפָרֵס לְכָל, וּמְטִיב לְכָל, וּמְכִין
 מִזֶּן לְכָל-בְּרִיּוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
 הֵינָן אֶת הַכֹּל. אָמֵן.

*Barukh attah Adonai Eloheynu melekh ha'olam
 hazzan et ha'olam kullo betuvo, bechen bechessed uvrachamim.
 Hu notein lechem lekol basar, ki le'olam chasdo.
 Uvtuvo haggadol tamid lo chaseid lanu
 ve'al yechsar lanu mazon le'olam va'ed,
 ba'avur shemo haggadol. Ki hu El zan umfarneis lakhol,
 umeitiv lakol umeikhin mazon lekol b'riyotav, asher bara.
 Barukh attah hazan et hakkol. Amen.*