



Reciting Kaddish -

Sanctifying the Name of God

The *Kaddish* is an ancient prayer of praise (written in Aramaic) that expresses a longing for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. Originally recited by rabbis when they had finished giving their sermons (the *Rabbi's Kaddish*), in time the prayer was modified and became associated with mourning.



The words of the Kaddish provide lasting comfort by stressing the greatness and sovereignty of God - even in the most harrowing of life circumstances. The word *kaddish* means sanctification, referring to the hallowing of God's Name (*Kiddush haShem*).

Jewish tradition requires that Kaddish be recited during the first eleven months following the death of a loved one and thereafter on each anniversary of the death (called the *Yahrtzeit*). This is called *avelut*. Kaddish is usually recited by the mourner(s) while they stand with a minyan, or group of at least 10 adults in a congregation (it is also customary for Kaddish to be recited every morning service at synagogue).

Note that if Kaddish is recited with a minyan, the *shaliach tzibbur* takes three steps back before beginning the last line, then bows to the left and says, "Oseh shalom bimromav," bows to the right and says, "hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu," and then bows forward and says, "v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen."

In the following, the words enclosed in brackets are recited by the congregation, not by the person(s) reciting Kaddish.

יְתַגְדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. [אָמֵן]

a mein rab-ba sh'meh ve-yit-ka-dash yit-ga-dal
Amen. great is his name and sanctified Exalted

בְּעֹלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,

khir-'u-teih v'ra di be-'ol-ma
according to that he created in the world
his will

וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיֵּינוּךְ

b'chai-yei-khon mal-chu-teih ve-yam-likh
in your his kingship and may
lifetimes he reign





וּבְיוֹמֵינוּ וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,

yis-ra'el beit de-khol uv-chai-yei uv-yo-mei-khon
the house of Israel of all and in the and in your days
lifetimes of

בְּעִגְלָא וּבְזְמַן קָרִיב. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

a-mein ve'im-ru kariv u-viz-man ba'aga-la
amen and say ye speedily and in a near time

[אָמֵן. יְהֵא שְׁמֵיהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.]

'ol-mai-ya ul'al-mei le'a-lam me-varakh rab-ba sh'meih ye-he 'a-men
and for all eternity forever be blessed great his name may Amen

יְהֵא שְׁמֵיהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.

'ol-mai-ya ul'ol-mei le'a-lam me-varakh rab-ba she-meih ye-hei
and for all eternity forever be blessed great his name may

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא.

ve-yit-na-sei ve-yit-ro-mam ve-yit-pa'ar v'yish-ta-bakh yit-barakh
and uplifted and exalted and glorified and praised Blessed

וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵיהּ דְקֻדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא

hu barikh de-ku-de-sha sh'meih ve-yit-hal-lal ve-yit-'al-leh ve-yit-had-dar
he blessed be the holy one the name and lauded and elevated and honored

[בְּרִיךְ הוּא]

hu barikh
he blessed be

לְעֵילָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירָתָא תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּהּ וְנַחֲמָתָא,

ve-ne-che-mata tush-be-chata ve-shira-ta bir-kha-ta kol min le'ei-la
and consolation praise and song blessing from all beyond



וְאָמְרוּ בְּעֹלְמָא. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן. [אָמֵן]

a·mein a·mein ve·im·ru be·'ol·ma da·'a·mi·ran
[Amen] Amen and say ye that are uttered in the world

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָא,

she·mai·ya min rab·ba sh'l·a·ma ye·hei
from heaven May there be great peace

וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן. [אָמֵן]

a·mein a·mein v'·im·ru yis·ra·'el kol ve·'al 'a·lei·nu v'chai·yim
Amen Amen and say ye Israel all and on upon us and life

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמְרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ,

'a·lei·nu sha·lom ya·'a·seh hu bim·ro·mav sha·lom 'o·seh
upon us peace make may he in high places peace he makes

וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן. [אָמֵן]

a·mein a·mein ve·im·ru yis·ra·'el kol ve·'al
[Amen] Amen and say ye Israel all and on

The Mourner's Kaddish

Exalted and sanctified is God's great name [Amen] in the world which He has created according to His will, and may He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.

[Amen. May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.]

May His great Name be blessed forever and for all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, elevated and lauded be the Name of the Holy One, blessed be He, [blessed be He] beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are spoken in the world; and say, Amen. [Amen.]

May there be great peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen. [Amen.]



English Transliteration

Yitgadal veyitkadash sh'mei rabba. [Amen]. Be'olma di v'ra khirutei,
veyamlakh malchutei b'chaiyeikhon uv'yomeikhon uv'chaiyei dekhhol beit
Yisrael, ba'agala u'vizman kariv. Ve'imru, Amen.

[Amen. Yehei sh'mei rabba mevarakh le'alam ul'almei 'olmaiya.]

Yehei shemei rabba mevarakh le'alam ul'olmei 'olmaiya.

Yitbarakh veyishtabakh veyitpar'ar veyitromam veyitnasei veyithaddar
veyitaleh veyithallal shemei dekudesha barikh hu. [Barikh hu.]

Le'eila min kol birkhata veshirata tushbechata venechemata da'amiran
be'olma. Ve'imru Amen. [Amen.]

Yehei sh'lama rabba min shemaiya, v'chayim aleinu ve'al kol Yisrael.
Ve'imru Amen. [Amen.]

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu, ve'al kol Yisrael.
Ve'imru Amen. [Amen.]

Different Versions of the Kaddish

Today there are several versions of the Kaddish:

1. *Kaddish D'Rabanan* (Rabbi's Kaddish) - This is perhaps the original form of the Kaddish, developed before the destruction of the Second Temple and recited by scholars to conclude their daily studies. It is similar in form to the Kaddish Shalem (see below).
2. *Chatzi Kaddish* (Half-Kaddish) - Serves to mark the ending of a section of the liturgy and contains the two basic paragraphs (the initial *Yitgadal* paragraph and the *Yishtabach* paragraph) as well as the central phrase *Y'hei Sh'mei Raba M'vorach L'alam Ul'olmey Almayah*. It has a more "upbeat" tone than *Kaddish Yatom*.
3. *Kaddish Shalem* (Full Kaddish) - This is the *Chatzi Kaddish* plus three additional lines, one (Titkabel Ts'lot'hon) to ask for our prayers to be accepted and two (Y'hei Sh'lama Raba and Oseh Shalom Bimromav) asking for peace. *Kaddish Shalem* is recited at the end of a service, having a tone of sonorous praise.
4. *Kaddish Yatom* (The Mourner's Kaddish) - This is the same as the *Kaddish Shalem* except that the additional line asking for our prayers to be accepted is not included. This form of the Kaddish is recited throughout the 11-month period of mourning of a loved one and each year at *yahrzeit*.
5. *Kaddish L'chad'ta* - This version is recited at the end of studying a book of Talmud and includes instead of the standard first paragraph an extended statement and request for resurrecting the dead and rebuilding Jerusalem.