



Greeting the New Year at Home: Erev Rosh HaShanah Table Blessings

Kabbalat Panim: Gathering Together, Giving Tzedakah

One of the ways we can make our holiday gatherings unique is to welcome everyone formally. If you have guests who are new to your table, be sure there is the chance for everyone to introduce themselves to one another.

The medieval poem *Uneh Taneh Tokef*, which is at the heart of the prayers we recite on the mornings of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, reminds us that one of the ways we can become better people in the year ahead is by giving *tzedakah* (expressing aspirational justice via philanthropy). There is no better time to do that than around your table as you welcome Rosh HaShanah with your guests. The host might say a few words about their favorite charitable cause and then invite people (in the moment or after the holiday) to make a small contribution to it. Or take a few moments to go around the table and invite everyone (young and old!) to share a cause or organization that they feel called to work for, or contribute to, in the year ahead.

Candlelighting

Candles are lit, then the following is recited:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל
(שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל) יוֹם טוֹב.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel (Shabbat v'shel) Yom Tov.

Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, who sanctifies us with mitzvot and calls upon us to kindle the lights of (Shabbat and) the Festival day.

Blessing the Children

Some families pause after the candlelighting to bless children and grandchildren who are present at the table. Parents or grandparents might gather a child in their lap, or place a hand on their head, and share a hope with the child for the coming holiday season or for the year ahead. Alternatively, you might prefer to use the words of contemporary liturgist Marcia Falk, who offers:

(child's name), Be who you are — and may you be blessed in all that you are.



Kiddush

For an abbreviated version, use only the first sentence.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנוֹ
מִכָּל-עַם, וְרוֹמַמְנוּ מִכָּל-לָשׁוֹן, וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו.
וְתִתֶּן-לָנוּ, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, בְּאַהֲבָה אֶת-יוֹם הַזִּכְרוֹן הַזֶּה, יוֹם
תְּרוּעָה, מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, זִכָּר לִיציאת מִצְרַיִם. כִּי בָנוּ בְּחַרְתָּ
וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשִׁית מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, וּדְבַרְךָ אֱמֶת וְקִים לְעַד.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי מֶלֶךְ עַל כָּל-הָאָרֶץ, מְקִדֵּשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיוֹם
הַזִּכְרוֹן.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher bachar banu mikol-am, v'rom'manu mikol-lashon, kid'shanu b'mitzvotav. Va-titen-lanu Adonai Eloheinu, b'ahavah et-yom ha-zikaron ha-zeh, yom T'ruah, mikrah kodesh, zacher li-tzi-at Mitzrayim. Ki vanu vacharta, v'otanu kidashta, mikol haamim, ud'vrachah emet v'kayam la-ad. Baruch atah, Adonai, Melech al kol ha-arets, mikadesh Yisrael v'yom hazikaron.

Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, who has chosen us from all the peoples, hallowing us with mitzvot. In Your love, Eternal One our God, You have given us this Day of Remembrance, to hear the sound of the Shofar, to unite in worship, and to recall the Exodus from Egypt. For You have chosen us from all the peoples, consecrating us to Your service, and Your word is truth eternal. Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, who hallows the House of Israel and the Day of Remembrance.

Immediately followed by *She'he'chyanu* (on next page):



Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁחַיֵּנוּ וְקִיּוּמֵנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.
Immediately followed by *She'he'chiyanu* (on next page):

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Wine or grape juice is sipped at this time *L'Chaim!* (To life!)

Blessing Over Apples and Honey

Take a slice of apple, dip in honey, and say:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, borei p'ri ha-eitz.

Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, Creator of the fruit of the tree.

And some add:

May it be Your will, Eternal our God, that this be a good and sweet year for us!

Enjoy your sweet apple slice.

Motzi

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

The traditionally round Rosh HaShanah challah is covered until this moment. Remove the cover and say:
Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, haMotzi lechem min haaretz.

Blessed are You, Eternal One who is Sovereign of Space and Time, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Dip your challah slice in some honey, take a bite, and then enjoy your meal!

B'tei'avon - Eat Hearty!