

Procedure for an Aliyah

[see below for text in Hebrew and transliteration and audio link]

During the Aliyah before yours, come up to the Bimah and sit on one of the chairs on the side.

When the previous Aliyah is complete, that person will move to the right. You will stand to the right of the Torah reader. Give the Gabbai on your left your Hebrew name.

The Torah reader will point to the beginning of the Torah portion to be read. Take the corner of your tallit and touch the position in the Torah that the Torah reader indicates, then kiss your tallit corner. If you are a woman and are not wearing a tallit, then perform this same procedure instead with a corner of the cloth Torah binding or a prayer book.

Chant the first Aliyah blessing loudly and clearly. Remember to:

Pause for the congregation to respond to your first sentence

Repeat the congregation's response before continuing with the rest of the blessing

The Torah reading will now commence.

At the conclusion of the Torah reading, the reader will point to the end of the Torah portion just read. Repeat the procedure of touching the Torah with your tallit (or the cloth Torah binding or a prayer book) and kissing it, as described above.

Chant the second Aliyah blessing loudly and clearly.

When you have completed the second blessing, move to the right to make room for the person with the next Aliyah.

When the concluding Aliyah blessing for the next Torah reading is completed, you are now free to return to your seat in the congregation. At this point, you may also greet the participants sitting on the Bimah before returning to your seat, if you choose to do so.

The tradition of remaining for the Aliyah following your Torah blessing is so that we do not appear to be rushing away from the Torah. Some people extend this by walking to their seats by a "longer path" such as going first to the back of the sanctuary. It is customary to shake hands with the Rabbi, even if it means crossing the Bimah.

[see below for text in Hebrew and transliteration and audio link]

Each congregant receiving an עליה recites these ברכות.

Before the Reading:

בָּרַכּוּ אֶת־יְהוָה הַמְּבָרֵךְ.

Congregation responds:

בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Congregant repeats above response, then continues:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת־תּוֹרָתוֹ.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

After the Reading:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Each congregant receiving an aliyah recites these b'rakhot.

Before the Reading:

Bar'khu et Adonai ha-m'vorakh.

Congregation responds:

Barukh Adonai ha-m'vorakh l'olam va-ed.

Congregant repeats above response, then continues:

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
asher baḥar banu mi-kol ha-amim, v'natan lanu et torato.
Barukh atah Adonai, noten ha-Torah.

After the Reading:

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam,
asher natan lanu torat emet, v'ḥayei olam nata b'tokhenu.
Barukh atah Adonai, noten ha-Torah.