



בס"ד Laws & Customs: Week of Selichos

For the year 5779

Up to - and including - the morning of Erev Rosh Hashana

According to Minhag Chabad

All times listed are for Melbourne only

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SHABBOS SELICHOS (21 ELUL)

The *Tochecha* is read more quietly and quickly than usual. Obviously, one must still hear every single word clearly. The *Baal Koreh* receives this *Aliyah* and recites the *Brochos* before and after. He is not formally called up to the *Torah*, but he may receive a *Mi Sheberach* after.

The 3rd and 4th chapters of *Pirkei Avos* are recited after *Mincha*. The opening *Mishna* ("Kol Yisroel") and concluding *Mishna* ("Rabbi Chananya") are recited only once.

A *Farbrengen* is conducted on Shabbos afternoon, as well as prior to *Selichos*.

Shabbos clothing is worn to *Selichos*.

Selichos starts immediately after *Chatzos*. (In the main *Shule* at 12:12am.)

The *Chazzan* dons a *Tallis* without a *Brocho*.

SELICHOS (DAY TWO ONWARDS)

From Monday onwards, *Selichos* is said before *davening*. We are not particular to recite it before dawn. However, it is appropriate to rise earlier for *Selichos* instead of postponing *davening*.

Brochos is said before *Selichos*, even before dawn (presuming that one slept at night).

The *Chazzan* for *Selichos* wears a *Tallis*. [The earliest time for *Tallis* is 5:17 on Mon, 5:16 on Tue, 5:14 on Wed, 5:13 on Thu, 5:11 on Fri, and 5:08 on *Erev Rosh Hashana*. If *Selichos* begins after this time, the *Chazzan* dons his own *Tallis* with a *Brocho*. If *Selichos* begins before this time, the *Chazzan* puts on his *Tallis* without a *Brocho*. As soon as it is the time, he should touch the *Tzitzis* and recite a *Brocho*.]

RECITAL OF SELICHOS

One should prepare for *Selichos* by learning (at least one idea from) the *Maamar* printed at the front of *Selichos*. *Tzedakah* should also be given right before *Selichos*.

It is customary to stand for the entire *Selichos*. [An infirm person may sit. If possible, he should at least stand for each recitation of *E-I Melech Yoishav* and *Hashem Hashem*, as well as *Ashamnu*.]

Ideally, *Ashrei* should begin only after a *Minyan* has gathered. However, if *Selichos* began without ten people, and a *Minyan* eventually forms, *Chatzi Kaddish* may be recited at that time. [The *Chazzan* should recite several *Pesukim* beforehand.]

A person who *davens* without a *Minyan* should omit the *Yud-Gimel Midos-Harachamim*. Some maintain that *Machei u'Masei* and *Moron D'vishmaya* (end of *Selichos*) should also be omitted.

If a *Chosson* is present at *Selichos*, *Ashamnu* is omitted. The same applies if one of the *Balei Habris* are present, provided that it is after dawn.

If there is no longer a *Minyan* remaining at the end of *Selichos*, *Kaddish Tiskabel* is still recited, as long as six people still remain. [Obviously, it is forbidden to abandon a *Minyan* before the end.]

SHABBOS MEVORCHIM

As on every *Shabbos Mevorchim*, the entire *Tehillim* is recited before *davening*.

We don't *bentch* the new month before *Musaf*, and *Av Harachamim* is recited. The *Baal Shem Tov* explains that Hashem himself *bentches* the month of *Tishrei*, and with this power we *bentch* the other months of the year.

A *Farbrengen* is conducted after *davening* in honour of *Shabbos Mevorchim*.

Tzidkosecha is recited.

The 5th and 6th chapters of *Pirkei Avos* are recited after *Mincha*. The opening *Mishna* ("Kol Yisroel") and concluding *Mishna* ("Rabbi Chananya") are recited only once.

Vi'hi Noam and *V'atah Kaddosh* are omitted on *Motzei Shabbos*.

EREV ROSH HASHANA MORNING

This day is the birthday of the *Tzemach Tzedek*, in 5549 (1789).

Selichos is longer than usual and one should plan his morning accordingly.

During *Selichos*, *Ashamnu* is recited even after daybreak, unless a *Chosson* is present. After *Selichos*, *Tachnun* is not recited for the remainder of the day.

The *Shofar* is not sounded. [A *Baal Tokeiah* who still needs to practice for *Rosh Hashana* may do so in a secluded area. However, it is far more preferable to practice in the days prior, instead of on *Erev Rosh Hashana*.]

HATARAS NEDARIM

Hataras Nedarim is performed by all males over the age of *Bar Mitzvah*, in the presence of a full *Minyan*. [If this is not possible, one may recite *Hataras Nedarim*

in front of three men or boys over the age of *Bar Mitzvah*.]

One should stand when reciting *Hataras Nedarim*, whereas everyone else sits.

One must understand the text of *Hataras Nedarim*. If he doesn't understand the Hebrew, he should say it in English.

The text of *Hataras Nedarim* in the *Siddur* is effective only for those vows or positive practices that one no longer remembers. Any vow or positive practice that one remembers must be presented (not necessarily on *Erev Rosh Hashana*) before a *Beis Din* of three, of whom at least one is well-versed in the laws of *Nedarim*.

A "positive practice" requires *Hataras Nedarim* if it was observed:

- One time or more, with the intention of continuing to do so indefinitely.
- Three times or more, even in the absence of any such intention, unless he specifically stipulated (whether verbally or in thought) that he was doing so "*Bli Neder*" (without a vow).

ROSH HASHANA PREPARATIONS

One writes and sends a *Pan* on behalf of himself and his family. Those within proximity visit the *Ohel*.

One should remember to prepare: Round *Challos*, sweet apples, honey, new fruits, pomegranates, *Tzimmes*, head of a ram or fish, meat, sweet foods and drinks.

On *Rosh Hashana*, it is customary not to eat any foods that are bitter, sour, overly sharp, or that contain nuts or vinegar.

One should ensure that the pages of a newly purchased *Machzor* aren't attached to each other (due to being uncut), as it is prohibited to separate them on *Rosh Hashana*.

In honour of *Rosh Hashana*, one should take a haircut, bathe and cut one's nails, as necessary.

On *Erev Rosh Hashana*, one should not donate blood or undergo any procedures or tests involving blood loss. [This does not apply in cases of great need, and certainly not when it is *Pikuach Nefesh*.]

Prior to every *Yom Tov*, the Rebbe emphasized that the *Yom Tov* requirements of the needy be met. (Online donations for Melbourne can be made at <http://mjcf.com.au>.) *Yom Tov* is also an especially appropriate time to host guests.