



Selected Laws and Customs of Rosh Hashanah 5787

Erev Rosh Hashanah-Friday, September 11

Hatarat Nedarim

There is a prevalent practice to perform *Hatarat Nedarim* (annulment of vows) before a group of three Jewish men on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. We will conduct this ceremony following 6:45 am Shacharit. The traditional formulation is on page 875 of the Koren Siddur and on page 2 of the Artscroll Machzor. It should be read in a language that you understand. You should ideally do this on Erev Rosh Hashanah, but you may do so up until Yom Kippur.

Cemetery Visitation

It is customary to visit the graves of loved ones on Erev Rosh Hashanah.

First Night of Rosh Hashanah-Friday, September 11

Candle Lighting

Before the time of candle lighting, make sure to light a long-lasting candle, such as a 48-hour yahrzeit candle. You will use this candle to light the holiday candles on the second night.

Candle lighting: 7:13 pm.

We recite two *berachot*:

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של יום טוב.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel yom tov.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the World, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the light of the holiday.

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם שהחינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam shehecheyanu vekiyimanu vehigiyanu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the World, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Kiddush

Ensure to recite *shehechyanu* at the end of *kiddush* on page 94 of the Artscroll Machzor. In homes where the same person lights candles and makes *kiddush*, *shehechyanu* should only be said once per night, preferably at *kiddush*.

Simanim

Following *kiddush*, we ritually wash our hands and recite *hamotzi* over the *challah*. It is customary to partake of round *challot* and to dip them in honey. After eating the *challah*, the prevalent custom is to eat *simanim*, symbolic foods.

We take a piece of apple dipped in honey and say the following *berachah*:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam borei peri ha'etz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the World, who creates fruit of the tree.

We eat a bite of the apple, and then say

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ שֶׁתַּחֲדֹשׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה.

Yehi ratzon milfanecha shetechadeish aleinu shanah tovah umetukah.

May it be Your will that You bless us with a good and sweet new year.

The numerous other traditional symbolic foods (pomegranate, leek, beet, fish, etc.) and the formulas to recite before eating them are on page 97 of the Artscroll Machzor.

First Day of Rosh Hashanah-Saturday, September 12

We do not sound the shofar when Rosh Hashanah falls out on Shabbat.

Second Night of Rosh Hashanah-Saturday, September 12

No preparation for the second day of Rosh Hashanah may take place until candle lighting time.

Light candles after 8:14 pm from a preexisting flame.

We recite two *berachot*:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel yom tov.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the World, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the light of the holiday.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam shehecheyanu vekiyimanu vehigiyanu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the World, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Since the two days of Rosh Hashanah are considered “one long day,” there is doubt whether we say the *berachah* of *shehechyanu* on the second night of Rosh Hashanah when we light the candles and at kiddush. We therefore make sure to either wear a new garment of significant value or eat a seasonal fruit that we haven’t yet eaten this season and keep the garment or fruit in mind while reciting *shehechyanu* at candle lighting and at kiddush. If you do not have a new garment or fruit, you should still say *shehechyanu* on the second night.

Kiddush

Ensure to include the *havdalah* blessings (pg. 96 of the Artscroll Machzor) in between *kiddush* and *she-hechyanu*.

We follow the same procedure for *hamotzi* and the *simanim* on the second night as on the first.

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah-Sunday, September 13

Shofar

It is a biblical requirement to hear the shofar blast on Rosh Hashanah. While we are required to hear 30 blasts, it is a centuries old custom to sound 100 blasts of the Shofar each day of Rosh Hashanah. Before sounding the shofar, the shofar blower recites the blessing over the mitzvah of shofar. While he says the *berachah*, you should have in mind that you will fulfill the biblical commandment of hearing the shofar. Apart from speech related to services, you should refrain from speaking from the time you hear the *berachah* until hearing the last shofar blast after Musaf.

At services the shofar will be sounded:

- After the Torah reading (30 blasts)
- Throughout the repetition of the Musaf Amidah (30 blasts)
- Directly after Musaf (40 blasts)

If you are unable to make it to shul to hear the shofar, please contact Rabbi Goldstein (rabbijgoldstein@gmail.com) so that we can arrange for someone to come to your home to blow the shofar for you.

Tashlich

There is an ancient custom to say *Tashlich* on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Since the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat this year, *Tashlich* pushed off until the second day. *Tashlich* should ideally be said next to a flowing body of water that contains live fish. Most halachic authorities hold that you should not throw bread into the water so as not to feed the fish, since you shouldn’t feed animals that don’t belong to you on Shabbat and Yom Tov. We recite the words of the prophet Micah, “He [God] will cast (*tashlich*) into the depths of the sea all of their sins.”

The community is invited to say *Tashlich* at Twin Lakes Park at 5:15 pm.

If you did not say *Tashlich* on Rosh Hashanah, you may do so up until Hoshanah Rabah.
Page 630 in the Artscroll Machzor.

Havdalah

Rosh Hashanah ends at 8:12 pm.

We say the *berachah* over wine and the *hamavdil* paragraph, omitting the blessings for spices and fire.