

Erev Sukkot Home Service

Although *Sukkot* is best celebrated with a *Sukkah*, even families who do not have one can do many things to enhance their holiday celebration. This guide is appropriate for all.

1. The house & *Sukkah* should be decorated with fruits & flowers symbolizing the agricultural theme of the holiday.
2. *Tzedakah* is given
3. The candles are lit:

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

*Barukh ata adonai elohelnu melekh ha'olam, asher
kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzi-vanu l'hadlik yom tov.*

Praised are You, *Adonai*, our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has sanctified us through Your commandments &
commanded us to light the candles.

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

*Barukh ata adonai elohelnu melekh haolam,
she-he-he-yanu v'kiy'manu v'hig-i-anu laz'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, *Adonai*, our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has kept us in life and sustained us & enabled us to
reach this season.

4. Children are blessed. Parents place their hands on their child's head and say:

To sons: ישמך אלקים כאפרים וכמנשה.
Y'sim-kha elohim k'ephra-yim v'khim-nashe.

May God make you as Ephraim and Menashe.

To daughters: ישמך אלקים כשרה, רבקה, רחל ולאה.
Y'sim-meikh elohim k'sara, rivka, raheil v'leah.

May God make you as Sara, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

For all children, continue with the Priestly Blessing:

וברכה ה' וישמך. יאר ה' פניו אליך ויחנך.
ישא ה' פניו אליך וישם לך שלום.

*Y'va-rekh'kha adonai V'yish-m-rekha. ya-elr
adonai panav elle-khah v'yi-hu-neka. yisa
adonai panav eile-khah v'ya-selm l'kha shalom.*

May *Adonai* bless you & keep you. May *Adonai's*
goodness shine on you & be gracious to you. May *Adonai*
turn with favor to you & give you peace. Amen.

5. Continue with *Kiddush*

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי הגפן.

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם, אשר בחר בנו
מכל עם ורוממנו מכל לשון, וקדשנו במצותיו.

ותתן לנו יי אלהינו באהבה מועדים לשמחה, חגים
וזמנים לששון, את יום חג הסוכות הזה. זמן שמחתנו
מקרא קדש, זכר ליציאת מצרים. כי בנו בחרת,
ואותנו קדשת מכל העמים ומועדי קדשך בשמחה
ובששון הנחלתנו. ברוך אתה ה' מקדש ישראל והזמנים.

6. When eating in a *sukkah*, the following *brakha* is added. On the first night "*leishev*" before *sheheheyanu*; on the second night, after *sheheheyanu*

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו לישוב בסוכה.

*Barukh ata adonai, eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher
kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu leishev ba-sukkah.*

Praised are You, *Adonai*, our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has instilled in us the holiness of *mitzvot* by
commanding us to dwell in the *sukkah*.

7. After *Kiddush*, continue with the ritual washing of hands, *Netilat Yadyim*.
8. *Ushpizin*, special *sukkot* "guests" are invited to join the meal. (*Siddur Sim Shalom* p. 330 - 335)
9. After the meal, *Birkat HaMazon* is said, adding the *ya'aleh ve-yavo* and special *haRaḥaman* sentences for holidays and for *Sukkot*.
10. Throughout the festival, *leishev* is recited after *Hamotzi* whenever eating in a *sukkah*.

LULAV AND ETROG

Every family should have a *lulav* and *etrog*. On each of the seven days of *Sukkot* (except *Shabbat*), preferably in the morning, the blessing should be said on the *lulav* & *etrog*. This is called *bentsching lulav*. To *bentsch lulav*, the *lulav* is taken in the right hand, the *etrog* in the left & they are brought together. The *etrog* is held with the *pitom* (dried blossom) down and the cut stem up. The following blessing is then said...

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו על נטילת לולב.

Barukh ata adonai, eloheinu melekh ha-olam al n'tilat lulav

(The first time the *lulav* & *etrog* are used, the *sheheheyanu* is added.)

The *etrog* is then turned over so that the *pitom* is up. Holding them together, the *lulav* & *etrog* are shaken in the six directions: East, South, West, North, Up and Down to indicate that God has sovereignty over all the world.