

LIGHTING HANUKKAH LIGHTS

On Friday evening, the Hanukkah candles should be lit immediately before the Shabbat candles. On Saturday evening, the Hanukkah candles should be lit after Havdallah.

Place the candles in the chanukiah from right to left, beginning with one the first night and adding one more each night. Light the shamash (the highest candle) first. Say the Hanukkah brakhot. Then use the shamash to light the other candles, from left to right.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us to light the lights of Hanukkah.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, she-asah nissim la'avoteinu ba-yamim ha-hem uva-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, accomplishing miracles for our ancestors from ancient days until our time.

On the first night, add:

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, she-heheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi-anu la-z'man hazeh.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, granting us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

After lighting it is traditional to read the prayer Haneirot Halalu, which declares these candles holy, used to commemorate the miraculous victories of Hanukkah and not to provide light for everyday use. Haneirot Halalu is found on page 308 of Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals. Here is a meditation based on this prayer:

We kindle lights to recall the great and wonderful deeds done by You, Lord our God, through the Maccabees. May the light of these candles remind us to look to You, source of our help. We remember those who came before us who made every sacrifice to keep the light of Your truth burning brightly. May we and our children be inspired by their example so that Israel may continue to be a light to the world in the ways of righteousness and truth.

Amen.

