

Prayers for Forgiveness

סְלִיחוֹת Selichot

.....*We open the ark, and the leader leads us in ancient hymns and prayers*

May Our Prayer Ascend¹

יַעֲלֶה Ya'aleh

May our prayer rise from evening,
our cry come from morning,
our song appear² until dusk.

יַעֲלֶה תַחֲנוּנֵנוּ מֵעֶרֶב
וְיָבֹא שׁוֹעֲתֵנוּ מִבֹּקֶר
וְיִרְאֶה רִנּוּנֵנוּ עַד עֶרֶב

Ya'aleh tachanunenu me'erev,
veyavo shav'atenu miboker,
veyera'eh rinunenu ad arev.

May our voice rise from evening,
our righteousness come from morning,
our redemption appear until dusk.

יַעֲלֶה קוֹלֵנוּ מֵעֶרֶב
וְיָבֹא צְדִקְתֵנוּ מִבֹּקֶר
וְיִרְאֶה פְדִיּוֹנֵנוּ עַד עֶרֶב

Ya'aleh kolenu me'erev,
veyavo tzidkatenu miboker,
veyera'eh pidyonenu ad arev.

May our misery rise from evening,
our pardon come from the morning,
our cry of distress appear until dusk.

יַעֲלֶה עֲנוּיֵנוּ מֵעֶרֶב
וְיָבֹא סְלִיחַתֵנוּ מִבֹּקֶר
וְיִרְאֶה נְאֻקְתֵנוּ עַד עֶרֶב

Ya'aleh inuyenu me'erev,
veyavo selichatenu miboker,
veyera'eh na'aketenu ad arev.

May our escape rise from evening,
for God's sake come from morning,
our atonement appear until dusk.

יַעֲלֶה מְנוּסֵנוּ מֵעֶרֶב
וְיָבֹא לְמַעַנּוּ מִבֹּקֶר
וְיִרְאֶה כְּפֻרְנוּ עַד עֶרֶב

Ya'aleh menusenu me'erev,
veyavo lema'ano miboker,
veyera'eh kipurenu ad arev.

May our salvation rise from evening,
our cleansing come from morning,
our prayer appear until dusk.

יַעֲלֶה יִשְׁעֵנוּ מֵעֶרֶב
וְיָבֹא טְהוּרֵנוּ מִבֹּקֶר
וְיִרְאֶה חֲנוּנֵנוּ עַד עֶרֶב

Ya'aleh yish'enu me'erev,
veyavo tahorenu miboker,
veyera'eh chinunenu ad arev.

¹ Each verse of this poem marks the three times of Yom Kippur prayer: the evening of Kol Nidrei, the following day, and the evening of Ne'ilah. The poem is a reverse alphabetical acrostic, with the second word of each line following the acrostic pattern. In the last verse, all three lines use א, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

² Or “be seen [by God],” and so “be accepted” or “find favor.”