

Congratulations on being called for an *Aliyah*!

These instructions are provided to help guide you, or refresh your memory in proceeding step-by-step through your honor. Remember, you are among friends and family, and you will have people to help and guide you along the way. It is good to practice the blessings in advance. You can listen to an audio link on The Emanuel website (www.emanuelsynagogue.org / How to? What if?) or we can send you a recording.

Appropriate dress for women for The Emanuel Sanctuary consists of covered shoulders, back and midriff. Please bring a sweater, jacket or shawl if necessary. For an *aliyah*, men wear a *talit* and both men and women wear head coverings.

- Shortly before it is your turn for an *aliyah*, go up to the *bimah* and sit in a chair next to the Rabbi. If you have the first *aliyah*, go up when the Torah is being paraded around the congregation. For the next ones, go up when the previous person is reciting the blessings.
- When it is time for your *aliyah*, you will be called to the *bimah* by your Hebrew name. Come forward to the Torah reading table. The reader will then show you, with a silver *yad* the place in the Torah where he/she will read. Touch with one of the *tzitzit* of your *talit*, the place shown and then kiss the *tzitzit*. If you are not wearing a *talit*, (some women do not) use the cloth Torah binder. You will find it on the table.
- Take hold of the Torah handles and recite the blessing (attached) before reading the Torah. This will be printed in large type (both in Hebrew and transliteration) next to the Torah. Remember to repeat the second line, after the congregation.
- The reader will then read from the Torah. Follow the pointer with your eyes while the reader is reading. When the reader concludes, touch the Torah again with the *tzitzit* at the place where the reader points to and again kiss the *tzitzit* (or Torah binder).
- Take hold of the Torah handles, roll the Torah closed and recite the blessing after reading the Torah (attached).
- Move to the right side of the Torah reading table next to the *gabbai* and stay on the *bimah* until the conclusion of the next *aliyah*.
- Cross the *bimah* to the stairs on the Rabbi's side and return to your seat. It is fine to shake hands and greet people on your way back.

Defining Our Terms

aliyah – literally, going up to the Torah to say the blessings before and after the reading

bimah - raised area where the Rabbi stands and the Torah is read

gabbai – the person who stands next to the Torah reader to help him/her. We usually have two *gabbaim*.

talit – prayer shawl

tzitzit - knotted fringes of the *talit*,

yad – pointer

Torah Blessings

Touch your *talit* or the Torah binder to the spot and kiss your *talit* or the Torah binder.
Holding both handles, roll the scroll closed.

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ.

Bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach.

The congregation responds

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed

You repeat

בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.

And continue:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ
מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,
נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

*Baruch attah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam, asher bahar banu micol
ha-amim v'natan lanu et Torato. Baruch attah Adonai noten HaTorah.*

Follow in the scroll while the reader chants the portion. He will show you the place again. Touch your *talit* or the Torah binder to the spot and kiss your *talit* or the Torah binder. Holding both handles, roll the scroll closed.

Then say:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרָת
אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ,
נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

*Baruch attah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam, asher natan lanu Torat emet v'hayei olam natah b'tochenu.
Baruch attah Adonai noten HaTorah.*

Praise Adonai, the Exalted One,

Praised be Adonai, the Exalted One, throughout all time.

Praised are You Adonai our God , who rules the universe,
Choosing us from among all peoples by giving us the Torah.
Praised are You Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe,
Giving us the Torah of truth, planting within us life eternal.
Praised are you Adonai, who gives the Torah.