

Being Called to the Torah - עליה לתורה

You are being called for the Honor of Blessing the Torah.

The *Torah* service begins about midway through the service. After the *Torah* has been removed from the Ark, brought forward and unrolled on the center table of the *Bimah* (the raised pulpit area), the Rabbi will speak briefly to the Congregation. The Cantor will then call the people forward in turn. The Rabbi will announce each person's English name. When the Rabbi calls your name, please come forward promptly, approaching the *Bimah* on the Rabbi's side. Take your place next to the person reading the *Torah* on his/her right hand side.

Men and women both are strongly encouraged to wear a *tallit* when called for an *aliyah* at Beth Am (*tallitot* are available at the entrance to the Sanctuary). If you wear a *tallit*, you may wish to follow the traditional practice of touching the open *Torah* (at the place where the reader will be reading) with one of the *tzitzit* (the fringes at the corners of the *tallit*), then kissing the fringe. The Blessings are then recited.

You need not bring a copy of the Blessings up the *Bimah* with you as there is a copy of the prayer on the table, in large type, in both Hebrew and transliteration. However, if you are more comfortable doing so, you certainly may.

We strongly encourage those who do not recite the Blessings regularly to practice them ahead of time in order to reduce anxiety and nervousness. Feel free to ask a friend, a family member, one of the Rabbis, the Cantor for a refresher on the words or melody.

When you finish the blessing after the reading, please shake hands with the Rabbi, then move stand next to the Cantor. Remain there until the next person completes the blessings and comes to that spot. Shake hands with that person and return to your seat unless you have the final *aliyah*. In that case, please remain where you are until the *Torah* and its decorations have been carried away. Then return to your seat.

Mazal tov and thank you for helping make the service a beautiful and meaningful one.

How to Learn the Melody to Chant the *Torah* Blessings on the Beth Am Website

www.betham.org/youth/bnaimitzvah.html

- Scroll to bottom to “Blessing Before reading from the *Torah*” and “Blessings after reading from the *Torah*”

עלייה לתורה

Each person called up to the reading of the *Torah* touches it with *tzitzit* (the fringes of the *tallit*), kisses the *tzitzit*, holds the handles of the *Torah* and says:

Blessing Before the Reading:

ברכה לפני הקריאה

Reader: בְּרַחוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ

Congregation: בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד

Reader: בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,

אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

Reader: *Ba-r'chu et Adonai ha-me-vo-rach!*

Congregation: *Ba-ruch Adonai ha-me-vo-rach l'o-lam va-ed.*

Reader: *Ba-ruch Adonai ha-me-vo-rach l'o-lam va-ed.
Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai, Eloheinu meh-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher ba-char ba-nu mi-kol ha-a-mim,
v'na-tan la-nu et to-ra-to.
Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, no-tein ha-to-rah!*

Praise *Adonai*, to whom our praise is due!

Praised be *Adonai*, to whom our praise is due, now and forever!

Blessed are You, Eternal One, our God, who has chosen us from all peoples by giving us the *Torah*. Blessed are You, *Adonai*, Giver of the *Torah*.

Blessing After the Reading:

הקריאה

ברכה אחרי

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה:

*Ba-ruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu meh-lech ha-o-lam,
a-sher na-tan la-nu to-rat eh-met, v'cha-yei o-lam na-ta b'to-chei-nu.
Ba-ruch ata Adonai, no-tein ha-to-ra.*

Blessed are You, Eternal One, our God, Sovereign of the world, who has given us a *Torah* of truth, and planted in our midst eternal life. Blessed are You, Eternal One, who gives the *Torah*.