

Birkat haChamah, the blessing on the sun, is recited once every 28 years, when the sun returns to the same position it held during Creation. Birkat ha-Chamah is said after davening, preferably as close as to sunrise as possible.

It may be said until the third halachic hour of the day (check your local luach) and, in a compelling circumstance, until midday. On a cloudy day, if the shape of the sun is still visible, the blessing may be said. If the clouds completely obscure the sun, the blessing “...oseh ma’aseh v’reishit” should be recited without saying shem u’malchut (i.e., without saying God’s Name).

יִירָאוּךָ עִם שֶׁמֶשׁ וְלִפְנֵי יָרֵחַ דּוֹר דּוֹרִים:
הַדְּרִינּוּ לָךְ אֱלֹקִים הַדְּרִינּוּ וְקָרוֹב שְׁמֶךָ סִפְרוּ נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ:
וְזָרְחָה לְכֶם יִרְאֵי שְׁמֵי שֶׁמֶשׁ צְדָקָה וּמִרְפָּא בְּכַנְפֶיהָ וַיְצַאֲתֶם וּפְשָׁתֶם בְּעִגְלֵי מִרְבָּק:
הַגִּידוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם צְדָקוֹ וְרְאוּ כָל הָעַמִּים כְּבוֹדוֹ:

הִלְלוּ-יָהּ! הִלְלוּ אֶת-ה', מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם; הִלְלוּהוּ, בְּמִרוֹמָיִם. הִלְלוּהוּ כָּל-מַלְאָכָיו; הִלְלוּהוּ, כָּל-צְבָאָיו. הִלְלוּהוּ, שֶׁמֶשׁ וַיָּרֵחַ; הִלְלוּהוּ, כָּל-כּוֹכְבֵי אוֹר. הִלְלוּהוּ, שְׁמֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם; וְהַיָּם, אֲשֶׁר מֵעַל הַשָּׁמַיִם. יְהִלְלוּ, אֶת-שֵׁם ה': כִּי הוּא צְוָה וַנִּבְרָאוּ. וַיַּעֲמִידֵם לְעַד לְעוֹלָם; חֲקִינְתָן, וְלֹא יַעֲבוֹר.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם **עוֹשֶׂה מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית**

אֲנִי בָרַח גְּדֹלַת יְמִינְךָ תִּתִּיר צְרוּרָה: קִבַּל רַצַּת עַמְּךָ שֶׁגִּבְנוּ טְהַרְנוּ נוֹרָא: נָא גְבוֹר דּוֹרְשֵׁי יְחִידָךָ כִּכְבַּת שְׁמֶרֶם: בְּרַכֶּם טְהַרֶם רַחֲמִים צְדָקָתְךָ תְּמִיד גְּמֻלָּם: חֲסִין קְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּב טוֹבָךָ נִהַל עֲדָתְךָ: יְחִיד גֹּאֵה לְעַמְּךָ פְּנֵה זוֹכְרֵי קִדְשֶׁתְךָ: שׁוֹעֲתֵנו קִבַּל וּשְׁמַע צַעֲקוֹתֵנו יוֹדַע תַּעֲלָמוֹת: בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלַכּוֹתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

לְמַנְצַח בְּנִינֹת מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר. אֱלֹקִים, יְחַנְּנוּ וַיְבָרְכֵנוּ; יֵאָר פְּנֵינוּ אֲתָנוּ סְלָה. לְדַעַת בְּאֶרֶץ יִרְבֶּךָ; בְּכָל-גּוֹיִם, יִשׁוּעָתְךָ. יוֹדוּךָ עַמִּים אֱלֹקִים: יוֹדוּךָ, עַמִּים כָּלֵם. יִשְׁמְחוּ וַיִּרְנְנוּ, לְאֲמִים: כִּי-תִשְׁפֹּט עַמִּים מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל; וְלְאֲמִים, בְּאֶרֶץ תַּנְחֵם סְלָה. יוֹדוּךָ עַמִּים אֱלֹקִים: יוֹדוּךָ עַמִּים כָּלֵם. אֶרֶץ, נִתְּנָה יְבוּלָה; יְבָרְכֵנוּ, אֱלֹקִים אֱלֹהֵינוּ. יְבָרְכֵנוּ אֱלֹקִים; וַיִּירָאוּ אֹתוֹ, כָּל-אֶפְסֵי-אֶרֶץ.

לְמַנְצַח מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד. הַשָּׁמַיִם, מִסְפָּרִים כְּבוֹד-אֵל; וּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדָיו, מַגִּיד הַרְקִיעַ. יוֹם לְיוֹם, יַבִּיעַ אִמְרֵי; וְלִילָה לְלִילָה יִחְנוּה-דַעַת. אֵינִי אִמְרֵי וְאֵינִי דְבָרִים: בְּלִי, נִשְׁמָע קוֹלֵם. בְּכָל-הָאֶרֶץ, יֵצֵא קוֹם, וּבְקִצָּה תִבְלֵ, מְלִיָּהֶם; לִשְׁמֵשׁ, שֵׁם-אֱהֵל בְּהֵם. וְהוּא – כְּחַתָּן, יֵצֵא מִחֻפְתּוֹ; יִשֵּׁשׁ כְּגִבּוֹר, לְרוּץ אַרְחָ. מִקְצֵה הַשָּׁמַיִם, מוֹצֵאוֹ – וּתְקוּפָתוֹ עַל-קְצוֹתָם; וְאֵינִי נִסְתָּר, מִחֻפְתּוֹ. תּוֹרַת ה' תְּמִימָה, מִשִּׁיבַת נֶפֶשׁ; עֲדוּת ה' נֶאֱמָנָה, מִחֻפְיֵמַת פְּתִי. פְּקוּדֵי ה' יִשְׂרִים, מִשְׁמַחֲחֵי-לֵב; מִצְוֹת ה' בְּרָה, מְאִירַת עֵינָיִם. יִרְאֵת ה' טְהוֹרָה – עוֹמְדַת לְעַד: מִשְׁפֹּטֵי-ה' אֲמַת; צְדָקוֹ יִחְדּוּ.

הַנְחֲמִידִים – מְזֻהָב, וּמְפוֹז רֵב; וּמְתוּקִים מְדִבֵּשׁ, וְנֹפֶת צוּפִים. גַּם־עֲבָדְךָ, נֹזֵהר בָּהֶם; בְּשִׁמְרָם, עֵקֵב רֵב. שְׁנֵיאוֹת מִי־יָבִין; מִנְסֻתְרוֹת נִקְנִי. גַּם מִזִּידִים, חֹשֶׁף עֲבָדְךָ – אֶל־יִמְשְׁלוּ־בִי אֲזַ אֵיתָם, וְנִקְיִתִי, מִפְּשַׁע רֵב. יִהְיֶה לְרִצּוֹן אִמְרֵי־פִי, וְהִגִּיזוּן לְבִי לְפָנֶיךָ: ה' צוּרִי וְגֹאֲלִי.

שִׁיר לְמַעֲלוֹת אֲשָׁא עֵינַי, אֶל־הַהָרִים – מֵאֲיִן, יָבֵא עֲזָרִי. עֲזָרִי, מֵעַם ה' – עֲשֵׂה, שְׁמִים וְאָרֶץ. אֶל־יִתֵּן לְמוֹט רִגְלֶךָ; אֶל־יִגּוֹם, שְׁמֶרְךָ. הִנֵּה לֹא־יִגּוֹם, וְלֹא יִישָׁן – שׁוֹמֵר, יִשְׂרָאֵל. ה' שְׁמֶרְךָ; ה' צִלְךָ, עַל־יַד יְמִינֶךָ. יוֹמָם, הִשְׁמַשׁ לֹא־יִכְבֶּה; וַיָּרֶם בְּלִילָהּ. ה', יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל־רָע: יִשְׁמַר, אֶת־נַפְשֶׁךָ. ה', יִשְׁמַר־צִאֲתֶךָ וּבּוֹאֶךָ – מֵעַתָּה, וְעַד־עוֹלָם.

תַּנּוּ רִבְּנוּ הַרְוֵאָה חֲמָה בַתְּקוּפַתָּהּ אוֹמֵר בְּרוּךְ עוֹשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית וְאֵימַת הָיִי אֲמַר אֲבִי כַּח שְׁנֵין וְהַדָּר מִחֲזוֹר וְנִפְלָה תְּקוּפַת גִּיסוֹן בְּשִׁבְתָּאֵי בְּאוֹרְתָא דְתַלְת גַּהִי אַרְבַּע:

אֵל אֲדוֹן עַל כָּל הַמַּעֲשִׂים. בְּרוּךְ וּמְבָרֵךְ בְּפִי כָּל נִשְׁמָה: גְּדֹלוֹ וְטוֹבוֹ מֵלֵא עוֹלָם. דַּעַת וְתְבוּנָה סִבְבֵים אוֹתוֹ: הַמְתַּנְּאָה עַל חַיּוֹת הַקֶּדֶשׁ. וְנִהְדָּר בְּכַבּוֹד עַל הַמְרַבֶּה: זְכוּת וּמִישׁוֹר לְפָנָי כְּסֵאוֹ. חֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים לְפָנָי כְּבוֹדוֹ: טוֹבִים מְאוֹרוֹת שְׁבָרָא אֱלֹקֵינוּ. יִצְרָם בְּדַעַת בְּבִינָה וּבְהַשְׁכֵּל: כַּח וּגְבוּרָה נִתֵן בָּהֶם. לְהַיּוֹת מוֹשְׁלִים בְּקֶרֶב תְּבַל: מֵלֵאִים זִיו וּמְפִיקִים נִגְהָה. נִאָּה זִיוֹם בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם: שְׁמַחִים בְּצִאֲתָם וְשֹׁשִׁים בְּבוֹאָם. עוֹשִׂים בְּאֵימָה רִצּוֹן קוֹנֵם: פָּאָר וְכַבּוֹד נוֹתְנִים לְשִׁמּוֹ. צִהְלָה וְרִנָּה לְזָכַר מַלְכוּתוֹ: קָרָא לְשִׁמְשׁ וַיִּזְרַח אוֹר. רָאָה וְהִתְקִין צוּרַת הַלְכָנָה: שָׁבַח נוֹתְנִים לוֹ כָּל צָבָא מְרוֹם. תְּפָאֶרֶת וְגִדְלָה שְׂרָפִים וְאוּפָנִים וְחַיּוֹת הַקֶּדֶשׁ:

עֲלֵינוּ לְשַׁבַּח לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל, לְתַת גְּדֹלָה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית, שֶׁלֹּא עֲשָׂנוּ כְּגוֹיֵי הָאֲרָצוֹת, וְלֹא שְׁמַנּוּ כְּמִשְׁפַּחוֹת הָאֲדָמָה. שֶׁלֹּא שָׁם חִלְקֵנוּ בָּהֶם וְגִדְלָנוּ כְּכָל־הַמוֹנָם, (שֶׁהֵם מִשְׁתַּחֲוִּים לְהֶבֶל וְרִיק, וּמִתְפַּלְלִים אֵל אֵל לֹא יוֹשִׁיעַ). וְאַנְחָנוּ כּוֹרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִּים וּמוֹדִים לְפָנָי מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמַּלְכִּים הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא, שֶׁהוּא נוֹטֵה שְׁמִים וְיֹסֵד אָרֶץ, וּמוֹשֵׁב יָקָר בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל, וְשִׁכִּינַת עֲזוֹ בְּגִבְהֵי מְרוֹמִים. הוּא אֱלֹקֵינוּ אֵין עוֹד אֲמַת מִלְכָּנוּ, אִפְסֵ זוֹלָתוֹ כְּפָתוּב בְּתוֹרָתוֹ: וַיְדַעַת הַיּוֹם וְהַשַּׁבָּת אֵל לְבָבְךָ, כִּי ה' הוּא הָאֱלֹקִים בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְעַל הָאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת. אֵין עוֹד: עַל כֵּן נִקְוָה־לְךָ ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ, לְרֵאוֹת מִהֲרָה בְּתַפְאֶרֶת עֲזָךְ, לְהַעֲבִיר גְּלוּלִים מִן הָאָרֶץ, וְהַאֲלִילִים פְּרוֹת יִכְרַתוּן, לְחַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שְׁדֵי, וְכָל־בְּנֵי בְּשָׂר יִקְרָאוּ בְּשִׁמְךָ, לְהַפְנוֹת אֵלֶיךָ כָּל רְשָׁעֵי אָרֶץ. יִכְרִו וַיְדַעוּ כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תְּבַל, כִּי־לְךָ תִּכְרַע כָּל־בְּרֵךְ, תִּשְׁבַּע כָּל לְשׁוֹן. לְפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ יִכְרַעוּ וַיִּפְּלוּ, וְלְכַבּוֹד שְׁמֶךָ יִקְרִי יִתְנֶה, וְיִקְבְּלוּ כָּלֵם אֵת עַל מַלְכוּתְךָ, וְתִמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיהֶם מִהֲרָה לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. כִּי הַמַּלְכוּת שְׁלֶךָ הִיא, וְלְעוֹלָמִי עַד תִּמְלוֹךְ בְּכַבּוֹד, כְּפָתוּב בְּתוֹרָתְךָ: ה' יִמְלֹךְ לְעֹלָם וָעֶד: וְנִאָּמַר: וְהָיָה ה' לְמֶלֶךְ עַל־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ. בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה ה' אֲחֵד וְשִׁמּוֹ אֲחֵד:

רַבִּי חֲנַנְיָהּ בֶּן עֲקָשָׁיָא אוֹמֵר, רְצָה הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא לְזַכּוֹת אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְפִיכָּה הִרְבָּה לָהֶם תוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת, שְׁנֵאָמַר, ה' חִפֵּץ לְמַעַן צְדָקוֹ, יִגְדִיל תוֹרָה וַיִּאֲדִיר:

Birkat Hachama – The Blessing of the Sun

English translation of the OU Hebrew blessing sheet, specially prepared by Lincoln Square Synagogue

PSALMS 72: 5 **י** They shall fear You so long as the Sun and the moon endure, throughout all generations.

PSALMS 75: 2 **ה** We have acknowledged You, HASHEM, we have acknowledged, and Your name is near; they tell of Your wondrous works.

MALACHI 3: 20 **ו** But unto you who fear My name the Sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings; and you shall go forth and be fattened as calves in the stable.

PSALMS 97: 6 **ה** The heavens declared His righteousness; and all the peoples saw His glory.

Tehillim - Psalms - Chapter 148: Verses 1-6

1. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights.
2. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts.
3. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all stars of the night.
4. Praise Him, highest heavens and the water that is above the heavens.
5. They shall praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.
6. And He set them up to eternity, yea forever, He issued a decree, which will not change.

Blessed are You, LORD, our God, King of the Universe who makes the works of Creation.

Ana B'Koach

Please, by the power of Your great right hand, set the captive nation free.
Accept Your people's prayer. Strengthen us, purify us, You who are revered.
Please, mighty One, guard like the pupil of the eye those who seek Your unity.
Bless them, cleanse them, have compassion on them,
grant them your righteousness always.
Mighty One, holy One, in Your great goodness guide Your congregation.
Only One, Exalted One, turn to Your people, who proclaim Your holiness.
Accept our plea and heed our cry, You who know all secret thoughts.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and all time.

Tehillim - Psalms - Chapter 67

1. For the conductor, on neginoth; a psalm, a song.
2. God will be gracious to us and bless us; He will cause His countenance to shine with us forever.
3. That Your way should be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.
4. Peoples will thank You, O God; peoples will thank You, yea, all of them.
5. Kingdoms will rejoice and sing praises, for You will judge peoples fairly, and the kingdoms-You will lead them on earth forever.
6. Peoples will thank You, O God; peoples will thank You, yea, all of them.
7. The earth gave forth its produce; God, our God, will bless us.
8. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.

Tehillim - Psalms - Chapter 19

1. For the conductor, a song of David.
2. The heavens recite the glory of God, and the sky tells of the work of His hands.
3. Day to day utters speech, and night to night tells knowledge.
4. There is neither speech nor words; their voice is not heard.
5. Their line goes forth throughout the earth, and their words are at the end of the world; for the sun He made a tent therein.
6. And it is like a bridegroom emerging from his chamber; it rejoices like a mighty man running a course.

7. From the end of the heavens is its source, and its circuit is to their ends, and none is hidden from its heat.
8. The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is faithful, making the simple one wise.
9. The orders of the Lord are upright, causing the heart to rejoice; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.
10. The fear of the Lord is pure, existing forever; the judgments of the Lord are true, altogether just.
11. They are to be desired more than gold, yea more than much fine gold, and are sweeter than honey and drippings of honeycombs.
12. Also Your servant was careful with them; for in observing them there is great reward.
13. Who understands errors? Cleanse me of hidden [sins].
14. Also withhold Your servant from willful sins; let them not rule over me; then I will be perfect and I will be cleansed of much transgression.
15. May the sayings of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable before You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Tehillim - Psalms - Chapter 121

1. A song for ascents. I shall raise my eyes to the mountains, from where will my help come?
2. My help is from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.
3. He will not allow your foot to falter; Your Guardian will not slumber.
4. Behold the Guardian of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The Lord is your Guardian; the Lord is your shadow; [He is] by your right hand.
6. By day, the sun will not smite you, nor will the moon at night.
7. The Lord will guard you from all evil; He will guard your soul.
8. The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from now and to eternity.

Babylonian Talmud – Tractate Brachot, 59b

“Our rabbis taught: ‘He who sees the sun at its turning point, recites the blessing of ‘the maker of works of creation.’ And when does this happen? Abaye answers: every 28 years when the cycle renews and the ‘season of Nissan’ (i.e. vernal equinox) falls in Saturn, on the evening of Tuesday going into Wednesday.”

El Adon

God, Lord of all creation, the Blessed, is blessed by every soul.
 His greatness and goodness fill the world; knowledge and wisdom surround Him.
 Exalted above the holy Hayot, adorned in glory on the Chariot;
 Merit and right are before His throne, kindness and compassion before His glory.
 Good are the radiant stars our God created, He formed them with knowledge,
 understanding and deliberation.
 He gave them strength and might to rule throughout the world;
 Full of splendor, radiating light, beautiful is their splendor throughout the world;

Glad as they go forth, joyous as they return, they fulfill with awe their Creator's will. Glory and honor they give to His name, jubilation and song at the mention of His majesty.

He called the sun into being and it shone with light. He looked and fashioned the form of the moon.

All the hosts on high give Him praise; the Seraphim, Ophanim and holy H'ayot ascribe glory and greatness

Aleinu

It is our duty to praise the Master of all, and ascribe greatness to the Author of creation, who has not made us like the nations of the lands nor placed us like the families of the earth; who has not made our portion like theirs, nor our destiny like all their multitudes. Those who worship vanity and emptiness, and pray to a God who cannot save. Therefore, we bow in worship and thank the Supreme King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He, who extends the heavens and establishes the earth, whose throne of glory is in the heavens above, and whose power's presence is in the highest of heights. He is our God; there is no other. Truly He is our King, there is none else, as it is written in His Torah "You shall know and take to heart this day that the Lord is God, in heaven above and on earth below. There is no other."

Therefore, we place our hope in You, Lord our God, that we may soon see the glory of Your power, when You will remove abominations from the earth, and idols will be utterly destroyed, when the world will be perfected under the sovereignty of the Almighty, when all humanity will call on Your name, and the earth's wicked will all turn to You. All the world's inhabitants will realize and know that to You every knee must bow and every tongue swear loyalty. Before You, Lord our God, they will kneel and bow down and give honor to Your glorious name. They will all accept the yoke of Your kingdom, and You will reign over them soon and for ever. For the kingdom is Yours, and to all eternity You will reign in glory, as it is written in Your Torah: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." And it is said: "Then the Lord shall be King over all the earth: on that day the Lord shall be One and His name One."

Rabbi H'ananya ben Akashya

Rabbi H'ananya ben Akashya said: The Holy One, blessed be He, wanted to confer merit on Israel. That is why He gave them a copious Torah and many commandments, as it is said, "It pleased the Lord, for the sake of [Israel's] righteousness, to make the Torah great and glorious."