



## **Immersion Ceremony**



In order to bring esteem to and beautify our Creator YHWH in worship, ensuring a unity and accord that most closely adheres to the scriptural model, Sabbath Keepers Fellowship & Prison Ministry offers this Immersion Ceremony to assist those who desire to perform this service in the names of YHWH and His son, Yehoshua Hamashiach. This is in accordance with the commandment of Messiah Yehoshua, who said,

*“Go into all the world and proclaim the excellent news to every creature. He who has believed and has been immersed, shall be saved.”*

And Kepha, his disciple said,

*“Repent, and let each one of you be immersed in the Name of Yeshua Messiah for the forgiveness of sins. And you shall receive the gift of the Set-apart Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as YHWH our Elohim shall call.”*

Presented to you by:  
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## **Preface**

The Immersion Service consists of: the Baraku (blessing), the Vidduy (confession), the Sh'ma, and the Brakoth (blessings).

The Baraku is a simple blessing to the Most-High acknowledging that it is Him and Him alone whom we are about to address and serve. It is done responsively with all present.

The Vidduy is acknowledging one's guilt and rebellion toward our Creator, a confession of sins, and the understanding of one's responsibility to turn back to Him and to His Way, so that we may live in peace with Him and in unity with His people. It is said solely by the one being immersed.

The Sh'ma is said to remind us of our greatest responsibility, which is to love YHWH with all our heart, soul and might, which also leads us to remember to love our neighbor as ourselves, for these are the two greatest commandments. It is recited by all present.

The Brakoth coincide with three immersions. The first Brakah is said to acknowledge that one is commanded to be immersed in the name of Yehoshua Hamashiach. The second is said to establish a testimony of the new life one is beginning, along with a new name to stand as a witness of that change. The third is said giving thanks to YHWH for granting one mercy and a time for repentance, so that they may now and forever walk according to The Way, and with the testimony of Yeshua Hamashiach. These are led by an Elder and repeated by the one being immersed.

After the immersion service, there follows a shortened form of the Amidah, the Aleynu and Mourner's Qaddish. They are included so that the first act after one has been immersed is prayer. They are joined by all present.

Finally, the Adon Olam is included to acknowledge the purity and set-apartness of YHWH, that He is and that all of creation is nothing without Him. It is sung by all present.

# The Order of Service for Immersions

(Stand.)

## The Baraku

(Leader says:)

<i>Baraku et YHWH hamvorak.</i>	Blessed be YHWH who is to be blessed.
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(Congregation says:)

<i>Baruk YHWH hamvorak l'olam v'ed.</i>	Bless YHWH who is to be blessed forever and ever.
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## The Vidduy

I make my sin known to You and do not conceal my iniquity; for I said that it is proper that I confess my transgressions to YHWH, and as a result, You have forgiven the iniquity of my sins. And it is stated: He who conceals his transgressions will not succeed, but he, who admits and forsakes them, shall be dealt with mercifully.

Please, YHWH, my Elohim, Elohim of my forefathers, let my prayer come before You, and do not hide Yourself from my supplication – for I am not so insolent nor so obstinate to say before You, YHWH, my Elohim, Elohim of my forefathers, “I am righteous and have not sinned,” rather, truly I have sinned – I as well as my forefathers and my household members:

*(With the reciting of each of the following statements,  
bring your right fist to your chest over your heart.)*

I have been guilty. I have betrayed. I have robbed. I have spoken gossip and slander. I have caused iniquity. I have caused wickedness. I have acted wantonly. I have extorted. I have accused falsely. I have given bad advice. I have lied. I have acted frivolously. I have rebelled. I have infuriated. I have committed adultery. I have been deviant. I have committed iniquity. I have transgressed willfully. I have oppressed. I have been obstinate. I have been wicked. I have corrupted myself and others. I have committed abominations. I have strayed and caused others to stray, and I have veered from Your excellent commandments and laws, but it has not benefited me. But You are righteous

regarding all that has befallen me, for You have acted with truth, and it is I who have caused wickedness.

YHWH Elohyim, Elohyim of Avraham, of Yitzchaq and of Ya'aqov! On this solemn occasion, which marks my passage from the old man – a slave to sin and death, to the new man – a slave to righteousness and life, I humbly raise my voice unto You! I fervently pray that I evermore walk in the way of the upright before You! Please, hear my prayer!

From my earliest infancy I was born in sin, and in sin did my mother conceive me. I have lived my life in sin, unworthy of Your grace and mercy. Yet now, I have come to realize my faults and my need to draw near to You. I desire to join in Your covenant with Yisrael. Today, I seek to enter into Your elect congregation as a member, accepting full responsibility for all of my past wrongdoings and placing myself under the obligation to set apart Your name before all the world in all I do. Receive me, O heavenly Father, hearken unto my prayer, and bestow upon me this gracious blessing so that my earthly life may be sustained and made happy in your unspeakable mercies. I bend my will to Yours that I may obey Your statutes and faithfully carry out Your ordinances. Dispose my heart to love and fear Your set-apart name, and grant me Your support and the strength necessary to avoid the worldly dangers which beset the path lying before me. Help me through temptation so that I may observe Your Torah and those precepts on which human happiness and eternal life depend. Yes, I will, throughout the days of my pilgrimage on Earth, trustfully and gladly proclaim:

*(Shade the eyes with Tallith or hand.)*

*Sh'ma Yisrael: YHWH  
Eloheynu, YHWH Echad.*

Hear, Yisrael, YHWH is our  
Elohyim, YHWH is One.

*(Say the following in an undertone:)*

*Baruk shem kavod malchuto  
l'olam v'ed.*

Blessed be His name, Whose  
glorious kingdom is forever and  
ever.

### **Ahavath Olam**

With everlasting love, Thou hast loved the house of Yisrael, Thy people; the Torah and commandments, statutes and judgments

hast Thou taught us. Therefore, YHWH our Elohyim, when we lie down and when we rise up, we will meditate on Thy statutes; yea, we will rejoice in the words of Thy Torah and in Thy commandments forever; for they are our life and the length of our days, and we will meditate on them day and night. And mayest Thou never take away Thy love from us.

*Baruk atah, YHWH, ohev  
Amo Yisrael.*

Blessed art Thou, YHWH, who  
lovest Thy people Yisrael.

*(Sing the following:)*

*El Melek Na'aman!*

El, faithful King!

### **The Sh'ma**

*(Shade the eyes with Tallith or hand.)*

*Sh'ma Yisrael: YHWH  
Eloheyinu, YHWH Echad.*

Hear, Yisrael, YHWH is our  
Elohyim, YHWH is One.

*(Say the following in an undertone:)*

*Baruk shem kavod malchuto  
l'olam v'ed.*

Blessed be His name, Whose  
glorious kingdom is forever and  
ever.

**And thou shalt love YHWH your Elohyim** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thy house, and upon thy gates.

**And it shall come to pass**, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love YHWH, your Elohyim, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the former rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will give grass in thy field for thy cattle, and thou shalt eat and be satisfied. Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other elohym, and worship them; and the anger of YHWH be kindled against you, and He shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and ye perish quickly from off the excellent land which YHWH giveth you.



Therefore, shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul; and ye shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, talking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thine house, and upon thy gates: that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, upon the land which YHWH sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of the heavens above the earth.

**And YHWH spoke unto Moshe**, saying, Speak unto the children of Yisrael, and bid them that they make them a tzitzith upon the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the tzitzith of each corner a cord of blue: and it shall be unto you for a tzitzith, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of YHWH, and do them; and that ye go not about after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye used to go astray; that ye may remember and do all my commandments, and be set-apart unto your Elohyim. I am YHWH, your Elohyim, who brought you out of the land of Mitzrayim, to be your Elohyim: I am YHWH, your Elohyim.

## Brakoth for Immersion of Conversion or Dedication

*(Before the first immersion, the officiator says:)*

*Baruk atah YHWH  
Eloheynu, Melek  
haolam, asher qid'shanu  
b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al  
t'vilath hageir l'ka,  
b'shem Yehoshua  
Hamashiach ben'ka.*

Blessed art Thou, YHWH our  
Mighty One, King of the  
universe, who sets us apart in  
His commandments, and  
commands us to immerse the  
stranger to Thee, in the name  
of Yehoshua Hamashiach,  
Thy son.

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*(Before the second immersion for a man, the officiator says:)*

*Eloheynu, Velohey  
avoteynu, qayeim et-  
haben hazeh  
l'malkuteyka, v'yikarey  
sh'mo b'yisrael, \_\_\_\_\_  
ben \_\_\_\_\_.*

Our Elohim, and Elohim of  
our fathers, preserve this son  
to Thy kingdom, and let his  
name be known in Yisrael as  
\_\_\_\_\_ son of \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Before the second immersion for a woman, the officiator says:)*

*Eloheynu, Velohey  
avoteynu, qayeim et-  
habat hazoth  
l'malkuteyka, v'yikarey  
shamah b'yisrael,  
\_\_\_\_\_ bat \_\_\_\_\_.*

Our Elohim, and Elohim of  
our fathers, preserve this  
daughter to Thy kingdom,  
and let her name be known  
in Yisrael as \_\_\_\_\_,  
daughter of \_\_\_\_\_.

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*(Before the third immersion, the immersed or the officiator says:)*

*Baruk atah YHWH  
Eloheynu, Melek  
haolam, shehecheyanu  
v'qiymanu, v'higiyanu  
laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed art Thou, YHWH our  
Mighty One, King of the  
universe, who has kept us in  
life and preserved us, and  
has enabled us to reach this  
season.

# Prayer Service Following Immersions

## The Amidah (Short Form)

*(Stand and face East, covering the head if you wish.  
Take 3 steps backward, pause, then 3 steps forward)*

*Adonay, Siphatay tiphtach  
uphy yagid Tehilateka.*

Master, open Thou my mouth  
and my lips shall declare Thy  
praise.

*(Bow at [\*], then straighten at the Name.)*

\* **Blessed art Thou, YHWH**, our Elohyim, and the Elohyim of our fathers, the Elohyim of Avraham, the Elohyim of Yitzchak, and the Elohyim of Ya'akov; The great, mighty, and revered El, the most high El, who bestowest lovingkindnesses and art Master of all things; who rememberest the pious deeds of the patriarchs, and in love wilt bring a redeemer to their children's children for Thy Name's sake.

O King, Helper, Saviour and Shield.

\* *Baruk atah, YHWH,  
Magein Avraham.*

\* Blessed art Thou, YHWH, the  
Shield of Avraham.

**Thou, YHWH, art mighty forever**, Thou revivest the dead,  
Thou art mighty to save.

*(From the day after Simchat Torah until the Eve of Passover, say:  
"Thou causest the wind to blow and the rain to fall.")*

Thou sustainest the living with lovingkindness, revivest the dead with great mercy, supportest the falling, healest the sick, freest the bound, and keepest Thy faith to them that sleep in the dust. Who is like unto Thee, Master of mighty acts, and who resembleth Thee, O King, who orderest death and restores life, and causest salvation to spring forth? Yea, faithful art Thou to revive the dead.

*Baruk atah YHWH m'chayeh  
hameytim.*

Blessed art Thou, YHWH who  
revivest the dead.

**Thou art set-apart**, and Thy Name is set-apart, and the Set-apart ones praise Thee daily.

*Baruk atah YHWH Hael  
haqadosh.*

Blessed art Thou YHWH the El  
who is set-apart.

**Give us understanding, YHWH** our Elohyim, to know Your ways; open our hearts to fear Thee, and forgive us so that we may be redeemed. Keep us far from sorrow; satisfy our needs on the produce of your land, and gather our scattered ones from the four corners of the earth. Let the righteous rejoice in the rebuilding of Your City and in the establishment of your Temple and in the flourishing of the might of David, Your servant, and in clear, shining light of the son of Yishai, Your anointed. Even before we call, do Thou answer.

*Baruk atah YHWH shomei'a  
t'fillah.*

Blessed art thou YHWH, who  
hearkens unto prayer.

**Accept, YHWH our Elohyim,** Thy people Yisrael and their prayer; restore the service to the inner sanctuary of Thy most set-apart house; receive in love and favour both the offerings of Yisrael and their prayer; and may the worship of Thy people Yisrael be ever acceptable unto Thee. And, let our eyes behold Thy return in mercy to Zion.

*Baruk atah, YHWH  
hamachazir Shekinato  
l'Tzion.*

Blessed art Thou, YHWH, who  
restorest Thy Presence unto  
Zion.

(\* Bow, then straighten at the Name.)

**\* We give thanks unto Thee,** for Thou art YHWH our Elohyim and the Elohyim of our fathers forever and ever; Thou art the Rock of our lives, the Shield of our salvation through every generation. We will give thanks unto Thee and declare Thy praise for our lives which are committed unto Thy hand, and for our souls which are in Thy charge, and for Thy miracles, which are daily with us, and for Thy wonders and Thy benefits, which are wrought at all times, evening, morn and noon. O Thou who art all-excellent, whose mercies fail not; Thou, merciful Being, whose lovingkindnesses never cease, we have ever hoped in Thee.

For all these acts Thy Name, our King, shall be continually blessed and exalted for ever and ever. And everything that liveth

shall give thanks unto Thee forever, and shall praise Thy Name in truth, The El, our salvation and our help.

*\* Baruk atah, YHWH, hatov  
Shimka Ul'ka na'eh l'hudoth.*

\* Blessed art Thou, YHWH,  
whose Name is Excellence, and  
unto whom it is becoming to  
give thanks.

**Grant great shalom** unto Yisrael Thy people for ever; for Thou art the sovereign Master of all shalom; and may it be excellent in Thy sight to bless Thy people Yisrael at all times and in every hour with Thy shalom.

*Baruk atah YHWH,  
hamvorak et Amo Yisrael  
b'shalom.*

Blessed art Thou YHWH, who  
blesses Thy people Yisrael with  
shalom.

**My Elohim!** guard my tongue from evil and my lips from speaking guile; and to such as curse me let my soul be dumb, yea, let my soul be unto all as the dust. Open my heart to Thy Torah, and let my soul pursue Thy commandments. If any design evil against me, speedily make their counsel of no effect, and frustrate their designs. Do it for the sake of Thy Name, do it for the sake of Thy power, do it for the sake of Thy set-apartness, do it for the sake of Thy Torah, in order that Thy beloved ones may be delivered. O save by Thy right hand and answer me.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable before Thee, O YHWH, my Rock and my Redeemer.

*(Take 3 steps back.)*

*(Bow left, right, and center while reading the following.)*

He who maketh shalom in His high places, may He make shalom for us and for all Yisrael, and say ye, *Amein*.

*(Spoken softly)*

May it be Thy will, YHWH our Elohim and Elohim of our fathers, that the Temple be speedily rebuilt in our days, and grant our portion in Thy Torah. And there we will serve Thee with awe, as in the days of old, and as in ancient years. Then shall the offering of Yehudah, Yerushalayim and all of Yisrael be pleasant unto YHWH, as in the days of old, and as in ancient years.

*(Take 3 steps forward.)*

## The Aleynu

(At [\*], bend the knees.)

**It is our duty** to praise the Master of all things, to ascribe greatness to Him who formed the world in the beginning; since He hath not made us like the nations of other lands, and hath not placed us like other families of the earth; since He hath not assigned unto us a portion as unto them, nor a lot as unto all their multitude. For we \* bend the knee and offer worship and thanks before the King, the King of kings, the set-apart One, blessed be He, (*and blessed be His name,*) who stretched forth the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, the seat of whose esteem is in the heavens above, and the abode of whose might is in the loftiest heights. He is our Elohyim; there is none else: in truth He is our King; there is none besides Him; as it is written in the Torah, And thou shalt know this day, and lay it to thine heart, that YHWH He is the Elohyim in heaven above and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

**We therefore hope in Thee, YHWH** our Elohyim, that we may speedily behold the esteem of Thy might; when Thou wilt remove all the abominations from the earth, and heathendom will be utterly destroyed; when the world will be perfected under the Kingdom of the Almighty, and all the children of flesh will call upon Thy Name, when Thou wilt turn unto Thyself all the evil-doers upon earth. Let all the inhabitants of the world perceive and know that unto Thee every knee must bow, every tongue must swear allegiance. Before Thee, YHWH our Elohyim, let them bow and worship; and unto Thy esteemed Name let them give honour; let them all accept the yoke of Thy Kingdom, and do Thou reign over them speedily, and for ever and ever. For the kingdom is Thine, and to all eternity Thou wilt reign in esteem; as it is written in Thy Torah, YHWH reigns forever and ever. And it is said, And YHWH shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall YHWH be one and His name one.

## The Mourner's Qaddish

*(The mourner says:)*

Magnified and sanctified be His great Name in the world which He hath created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom during your life and during your days, and during the life of all the house of Yisrael, even speedily and at a near time, and say ye, *Amein*.

*(Congregation and Mourner say:)*

Let His great Name be blessed forever to all eternity.

*(Mourner says:)*

Blessed, praised and esteemed, exalted, extolled and honored, magnified and lauded be the Name of the Set-apart One, blessed be He (*, and blessed be His Name*); though He be high above all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations, which are uttered in the world; and say ye, *Amein*.

May there be abundant shalom from heaven, and life for us and all Yisrael; and say ye, *Amein*.

*(Take 3 steps back.)*

*(Bow left, right, and center while reading the following.)*

He who makes shalom in His high places, may He make shalom for us and for all Yisrael; and say ye, *Amein*.

## **Avinu Sh'bashamayim**

*(Our Father in the Heavens)*

*Avinu sh'bashamayim,  
yitqadesh shimka,  
veyitbarech malkutka,  
retsonka yih'yay asuee  
b'shamayim uva'aretz,  
vetiten lachmaynu temidit,  
umechol lanu chatotaynu  
ka'asher anachnu mochalim  
lachotim lanu, v'al teviaynu  
liday nissayon, v'shomraynu  
mikol rah. Amein.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, sanctified be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from all evil. *Amein*.

## **Additional Songs and Meditations**

### **Adon Olam**

Adon Olam asher malach, b'terem kol y'tzir nivra.  
L'eyt na'asa v'cheftzo kol, azay melech sh'mo nikra.  
V'acharey kichlot hakol, l'vado yimloch nora.  
V'hu haya v'hu hoveh, v'hu yih'yeh b'tifara.  
V'hu echad v'eyn sheyni, l'hamshil lo l'hachbira.  
B'li reyshit b'li tachlit, v'lo haoz v'ha misra.  
V'hu Eyli v'chai goali, v'tzur chevli b'eyt tzara.  
V'hu nisi umanos li, m'nat kosi b'yom ekra.  
B'yado afkid ruchi, beyt ishan v'aira  
V'im ruchi g'viyati, YHWH li v'lo ira.

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*(translation)*

Eternal Master who reigned before all conceived of was created, When by His desire all was made, then His sovereign name was proclaimed.

And after all ceases to be, only He will reign in awesome splendor.

And He existed, and He exists, and He will exist in beauty.

And He is One, no other shares His nature or His uniqueness.

Without beginning, without end, and with all strength and dominion.

And He is my El and life, my Redeemer and Rock in time of destruction and distress.

And He is my banner, and refuge, I have the portion of my cup in the day I call.

In the hand of His strength is my spirit. In the time of sleep and when I wake, and in my spirit or in my body, with YHWH, I have no fear.