

# ISLAMIC FORMAL PRAYER (SALAAT)

## PRE-CONDITIONS

- Be in a state of purification (e.g. ritual washing, clean clothes)
- Stand upright facing the direction of Mecca
- Prostration must be on earth or what grows on it

## ANNOUNCE THE START

1. (silently): "I offer this <name> prayer, of <X> units seeking closeness to God"
2. "God is Greater" —recited as a transition throughout the prayer

## START UNIT

4. Recite 1st chapter of Quran—sometimes recited silently

"In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate  
Praise belongs to God, Lord of the Worlds,  
The Merciful, the Compassionate,  
Master of the Day of Judgment;  
We worship only You, and from You alone do we seek help.  
Lead us on the straight path, the path of those whom You have blessed,  
Not of those inflicted with Your Wrath, nor gone astray."

5. Recite another chapter of Quran—sometimes recited silently

"In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate  
Say: 'He is God, the One,  
God is He on Whom all depend,  
He begets not, nor is He begotten,  
And none is like Him.'"

6. (transition): "God is Greater"
7. (bend): "Glory be to my Lord, the Great, and praise belongs to Him"
8. (stand): "God hears the one who celebrates His praise"
9. (transition): "God is Greater"
10. (prostrate): "Glory be to my Exalted Lord, and praise belongs to Him"
11. (transition): "God is Greater"
12. (sit): "I ask forgiveness of God, my Lord, and turn towards Him"
13. (transition): "God is Greater"
14. (prostrate): "Glory be to my Exalted Lord, and praise belongs to Him"
15. (transition): "With God's help and through His power I stand and sit"

16. If this is 2nd Unit, sit and say:

"I bear witness that there is no god apart from [The] God, Who is unique and without partners. I also bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger.  
O God, bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad."

17. If this is Last Unit, sit, recite above step then add:

"Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and God's mercy and blessing. Peace be upon us, and upon the righteous servants of God. Peace be upon you [all], and God's mercy and blessing."

## END UNIT (REPEAT)

**All units:** Repeat from step 4  
**For 3rd & 4th units:** Skip step 5

## ABOUT

Formal prayer is recited in Arabic and consists of a repeated cycle (units) celebrating God's praise & acknowledging His Majesty. This is different from supplication (informal prayer) which is said at any time and in any language.

### Times of obligatory\* formal prayer:

Before sunrise = 2 units	
Just after Noon = 4 units	Late afternoon = 4 units
Just after sunset = 3 units	Before midnight = 4 units

\* There are other optional, formal prayers during the day and night.

### Purification:

In most cases, this is achieved through washing of the face & hands, and wiping of head & feet with water. However, at times, the body must be washed. Clothes must be clean.

### Call to prayer:

Formal prayer begins with the Call to Prayer done twice. First, to hearken believers, then before starting prayer.

God is Greater (x4 for 1st call; x2 for 2nd call)  
I bear witness that there is no god but [The] God (x2)  
I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of God (x2)  
I bear witness that Ali is the Friend of God (x2) — optional  
Hasten to prayer (x2)  
Hasten to prosperity (x2)  
Hasten towards the best of action (x2)  
God is Greater (x2)  
**[only for 2nd call]** Lo, Prayer has established (x2)  
There is no god but [The] God (x2 1st call, x1 2nd call)

### Supplicating after formal prayer :

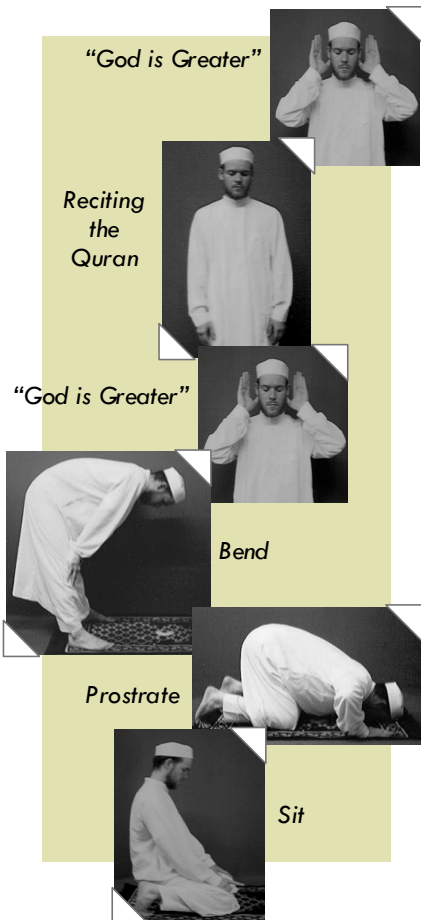
Optional supplication may be recited individually or collectively using books, prayer beads to repeat invocations, or by personal pleas in any language.

### Differences in prayers:

While the overall structure remains uniform, small differences exist in the way the formal prayers are said. For instance, invocations may be repeated multiple times instead of saying it just once. Or supplications in Arabic (often from the Quran) are recited in the middle of prayer.

### Praying together:

Muslims are encouraged to perform formal prayers collectively. To maintain the structure of formal prayer in a group, there are various etiquettes for praying collectively, including selecting a leader of the prayer (imam).



# Main Inside Heading

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## PRE-CONDITIONS

Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4  
Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
E-mail: someone@example.com