

ADAR II

The *Molad*: Thursday morning,
3:51 and 17 portions.

The moon may be sanctified until
Thursday, the 14th, 10:13 p.m.¹

The first day of Rosh Chodesh is on Thursday.

The second day of Rosh Chodesh is on Friday.

2 Adar II, Shabbos Parshas P'kudei.

The *Haftorah* begins *Vatishlam kol ham'lachab* (*I Kings* 7:51-8:21).

9 Adar II, Shabbos Parshas Vayikra, Parshas Zachor.

In the **Morning Service**, two Torah scrolls are taken out. Seven men are given *aliyos* for the weekly reading from the first scroll, and a half-*Kaddish* is recited. The *Maftir*, the concluding passage from Parshas Ki Seitzei (*D'varim* 25:17-19) which mentions the command to remember what Amalek did, is read from the second scroll.

The Rebbe instructed that the word זכר in the phrase זכר עמלק should be read twice: first with a *tzeirei* (*zeicher*) and then with a *segol* (*zecher*).

The *Haftorah* begins *Kob amar A-donai Tz'vaos pakadti* (*I Shmuel* 15:2-34).

The passage *Av harachamim* is recited.

13 Adar II, Wednesday, the Fast of Esther, one of the five commemorative communal fasts.

In the **Morning Service**, the *chazan* recites the blessing *Aneinu* after the blessing *Goel Yisrael*. See the section for the Fast of Gedaliah (*Tishrei* 3) for more details.

After the *Sh'moneh Esreh*, we recite *Tachanun*, *S'lichos*, and the long *Avinu Malkeinu*, and then the *chazan* recites a half-*Kaddish*.

Afterwards the Torah is taken out, and the passage *Vay'chal* (*Sh'mos* 32:11-14, 34:1-10) is read, provided there are at least three people in the congregation fasting.² A person who is not fasting should not be called up to the Torah.

1. The times for sanctifying the moon are based on Jerusalem Standard Time.

2. This is The Rebbe's directive in his notes to this calendar, 5716.

Before the **Afternoon Service**, everyone should commemorate the half-*shekel* that was given when the *Beis HaMikdash* was standing by giving three coins which are half of the local currency (e.g., a half-dollar in the U.S.). These donations should be given to the poor.

A charity box should be put out for Kupas Rabbi Meir Baal Haness, the charitable fund that supports the poor in *Eretz Yisrael*, so that the practice of recalling the *Beis HaMikdash* is associated with the benefit of the poor of *Eretz Yisrael*.

In the **Afternoon Service**, the passage *Vay'chal* is read again. See the section for the Fast of Gedaliah (Tishrei 3) for more details. The person receiving the third *aliyah* recites the *Haftorah* (*Y'shayahu* 55:6-56:8).

The passage *Aneinu* is included in the *Sh'moneh Esreh* by the congregation and the *chazan*.

We do not recite *Tachanun* or *Avinu Malkeinu*.

14 Adar II, Thursday, Purim.

In the **Evening Service**, we include the passage *V'al hanissim* in the *Sh'moneh Esreh*. Any announcement to remind the congregation about this addition must be made before the Evening Service. (See the section for Chanukah for the details of what to do if one forgets to add it.)

After the *Sh'moneh Esreh*, a full *Kaddish* (including *Tiskabel*) is recited.

We then proceed to the **Megillah reading**.

The reader (and the listeners) should fold their *Megillah* like a letter, into three parts. The reader recites three blessings: *Al mikra megillah*, *She'asab nissim*, and *Shebecheyanu*. He should have the intent that all those listening to his blessings and reading fulfill their obligation thereby. The listeners, in turn, should answer *Amen* to each of the blessings with the same intention.

It is forbidden to make any interruption until the reader concludes the blessing recited afterwards, *Harav es riveinu*. If the reader or the listener misses even one word, he does not fulfill his obligation, and must begin again from the word that was missed.

It is **customary** for the entire congregation to read four verses out loud: *Isb Y'hudi...* (2:5), *U'Mordechai Yatza...* (8:15), *La'y'hudim...* (8:16), and *Ki Mordechai...*

(10:3). Afterwards the reader repeats them.

We “strike Haman” at various stages in the reading (when he is described with a “title,” such as *ba’agagi*, *ba’ra*, or the like).

The names of Haman’s ten sons (9:7-9) should be read in one breath. This includes the preceding words *chameish mei’os ish* and the following word *aseses*. These should be read by the congregation first. At this time the children should make noise, as we do when Haman’s name is read with a “title.”

The phrase *laharog ul’abeid* (8:11) should be read again as *v’laharog ul’abeid*. Similarly, the phrase *v’ish lo amad bifneihem* (9:2) should be read again as *v’ish lo amad lifneihem*.

When reading the words *ba’iggeres bazos* (9:26, “this letter”) and *iggeres baPurim bazos hasbeinis* (9:29, “this second letter of Purim”), the *Megillah* should be rustled.

After reading the *Megillah*, the reader recites the blessing *Harav es riveinu*, and we say the passage *Shoshanas Yaakov* (“The rose of Jacob...”). Only afterwards should one roll the *Megillah* shut. (All of these points should also be observed when reading the *Megillah* during the day.)

Afterwards the passage *V’atah kadosh* is recited, followed by a full *Kaddish* without *Tiskabel*, *Aleinu*, and the Mourner’s *Kaddish*.

In the **Morning Service**, *V’al hanissim* is added to the *Sh’moneh Esreh*. *Tachanun* and *E-l erech apayim* are not recited. Afterwards a half-*Kaddish* is recited.

Three *aliyos* are given for the Torah reading, the passage *Vayavo Amalek* (*Sh’mos* 17:8-16).

The Rebbe instructed that the word זכר in the phrase זכר עמלק should be read twice: first with a *segol* (*zecher*) and then with a *tzeirei* (*zeicher*).

(If a person had not heard Parshas Zachor, he should have the intention of fulfilling his obligation to remember Amalek by listening to this passage.)

After the Torah reading, a half-*Kaddish* is recited.

If a person did not give the three half-*shekels* on the Fast of Esther, he should give them at this time.

The *Megillah* is read with its three blessings, as was done at night. On Purim day, the *t’fillin* of *Rashi* are worn while the *Megillah* is heard and read.

When reciting the blessing *Shebecheyanu*, one should also have in mind the *mitzvos* of *mishloach manos* (sending presents of food to friends), *matanos la'evyonim* (giving presents to the poor), and the Purim feast.

After the reading of the *Megillah*, the reader recites the blessing *Harav es riveinu*, and we then recite the passage *Shoshanas Yaakov*. The congregation then concludes the Morning Service, reciting *Ashrei*, *U'va l'Tziyon goel*, a full *Kaddish*, *Y'hall'lu* (while the Torah scroll is returned to the ark), *Beis Yaakov*, etc.

(If there is a circumcision to be performed in the synagogue, it should be done before the *Megillah* reading.)

Mishloach manos: Every person is obligated to send at least two portions of food to at least one other person. A man should send to another man, and a woman should send to another woman.

Matanos la'evyonim: Every person is obligated to give at least one present to at least two poor people. A man may give a present to a poor woman.

A person who gives many portions of food to friends and presents to the poor is praiseworthy. It is, however, preferable to give generously to the poor than to prepare a lavish Purim feast or to give many portions to one's friends. "For there is no greater and more beautiful happiness than to bring joy to the hearts of the poor, the orphans, and the widows... Such a person resembles the Al-mighty, who is praised by the prophet³ for 'reviving the spirit of the lowly and reviving those with crushed hearts.'"⁴

One should also encourage and strengthen young children in the observance of all the *mitzvos* of the days of Purim, in particular *mishloach manos* and *matanos la'evyonim*.⁵

The Purim feast: It is customary to recite the **Afternoon Service** early in the afternoon, and then hold the Purim feast. If a person desires to hold the feast in the morning, he may do so.

Even if the feast extends past nightfall, one should

3. *Y'shayahu* 57:15.

4. *Mishneh Torah, Hilchos Megillah* 2:17.

5. *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. XI, p. 321.

include the passage *V'al hanissim* in the Grace After Meals, because the feast began during the day.

15 Adar II, Friday, Shushan Purim.

We do not recite *Tachanun*. It is forbidden to fast or to eulogize the deceased on this day.

We add slightly to our joy and feasting on this day.

We are careful not to eat *matzah* during the thirty days before *Pesach*.

16 Adar II, Shabbos Parshas Tzav.

We recite the *Haftorah* from *Koh amar A-donai* until *v'nichbresab mipihem* (*Yirmeyahu* 7:21-28), and then skip to *Koh amar A-donai al yis'hallel* until *n'um A-donai* (*ibid.* 9:22-23).

23 Adar II, Shabbos Parshas Sh'mini, Parshas Parah, and Shabbos M'varchim.

In the **Morning Service**, two Torah scrolls are taken out. Seven men are given *aliyos* for the weekly reading from the first scroll, and a half-*Kaddish* is recited. The *Maftir*, the opening passage from Parshas Chukas (*Bamidbar* 19:1-22) which describes the procedure of preparing and using the ashes of the Red Heifer, is read from the second scroll. The *Haftorah* is *Vay'bi d'var A-donai... dibarti v'asisi* (*Y'chezkel* 36:16-36).

We bless the month of Nissan, announcing Rosh Chodesh, which falls on the coming Shabbos.

We do not recite the passage *Av harachamim*.

25 Adar II, Monday.

This day marks the birthday of **Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson**, daughter of the Previous Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, and wife of The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, in 5661 (1901).

