

אֲשֵׁרֵי יוֹשְׁבֵי בֵיתְךָ עוֹד יִהְלֹךְ סֵלָה.  
אֲשֵׁרֵי הָעַם שְׂפָכָה לּוֹ, אֲשֵׁרֵי הָעַם שִׁיהוּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ.

### תהלה לדוד

אֲרוֹמְמָךְ אֱלֹהֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאֶבְרַכְּךָ שְׂמֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.  
בְּכָל־יּוֹם אֶבְרַכְּךָ, וְאֶהְלֵלְךָ שְׂמֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.  
גְּדוֹל יְהוָה וּמְהַלֵּל מְאֹד, וְלִגְדֹלְתוֹ אֵין חֶקֶה.  
הַיּוֹר לְדוֹר יִשְׂבַח מִעֲשֵׂיךָ, וּגְבוּרַתֶיךָ יִגִּידוּ.  
הַדֵּר כְּבוֹד הַיּוֹדֶה, וְדַבְרֵי נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ אֲשִׁיחָה.  
וְעֲזוֹז נוֹרְאוֹתֶיךָ יֹאמְרוּ, וּגְדֹלְתֶךָ אֲסַפְּרָנָה.  
זָכַר רַב טוֹבְךָ יִבְיָעוּ, וְצַדִּיקְתֶּךָ יִרְנְנוּ.  
חַנּוּן וְרַחוּם יְהוָה, אֶרְךָ אַפַּיִם וּגְדֹל־חֶסֶד.  
טוֹב יְהוָה לְכֹל, וְרַחֲמָיו עַל כָּל־מַעֲשָׂיו.  
יִוְדוּךָ יְהוָה כָּל־מַעֲשֵׂיךָ, וְחִסְדֶיךָ יִבְרַכּוּכָה.

continued

ASHREI. According to Rabbi Eleazar (3rd century, Land of Israel) speaking in the name of his teacher, Abina, the daily recitation of Psalm 145 opens a pathway to eternity. The Babylonian Talmud explains that it is an alphabetical acrostic (although it is missing one letter, *nun*) that symbolically encompasses the variety of praises of God, and that it contains an especially appropriate description of the thankfulness with which we are to approach God: "You open Your hand, satisfying all the living with contentment" (Berakhot 4b).

An additional reason for its frequent use in the liturgy is that the psalm expresses a dual posture of faithfulness. "I" express my faithfulness to God, and the

psalm then describes that God faithfully cares for those devoted to God. The two themes are interwoven throughout the psalm, which then concludes with a final assertion that not only "I" but "all that is mortal" will praise God. It is this expression of a covenantal relationship, in which God and humanity respond to each other, that makes Ashrei both an appropriate introduction to prayer (as it is in *Minḥah*), and an appropriate conclusion to prayer (as it is in the weekday *Shaharit* service). Here, it serves in both of those roles: concluding *Shaharit* and the Torah service, and simultaneously introducing *Musaf*. For synagogue use, two verses were added to the beginning of Psalm 145, both of which begin with the word *ashrei*, "joyous" (Psalms 84:5 and 144:15), and it was these additional verses that gave the name "Ashrei" to this prayer. The first verse, which speaks of those who "dwell in Your house," is especially appropriate in the context of synagogue prayer. Similarly, at the end, the verse "we shall praise Adonai now and always" was appended from Psalm 115:18.