We rise.

**ALEINU.** This prayer was originally composed for the Malkhuyot ("Sovereignty") section of the Rosh Hashanah Musaf service. Since the late Middle Ages, it has acquired a special pride of place in Ashkenazic liturgy (but not in most Sephardic rites) and is recited as part of the conclusion of every service. It is customary to physically bow from the waist when we recite the line va-anahnu korim, “And so we bow.”

**NOR FORMED US AS ALL EARTHLY FAMILIES.** The historic continuity of the Jewish people defies the story of most nations. Nevertheless, the Jewish exceptionalism emphasized in this prayer has been a matter of controversy, and the current Israeli Masorti Movement has offered the option of reciting instead the lines from the prophet Micah: “For the people of every nation shall walk in the name of their god, but we shall walk in the name of Adonai, our God, forever” (4:5).

**KNOW THIS DAY.** Deuteronomy 4:39, from Moses' speech enunciating the meaning of God's revelation at Sinai.