



Name: _____

Date: _____

Salat: Prayer in Muslim Life Salat Fact Sheet

Salat refers to formal worship performed five times each day.
The Five Daily Worship Times are tied to the movement of the sun and are as follows:

Fajr: early dawn, just before sunrise
Dhuhr: shortly after midday
Asr: mid-afternoon to early evening
Maghrib: right after sunset
Isha: night, after dusk has ended

The exact times for prayer are variable. The following Web site posts daily Muslim prayer times around the world.

<http://www.islamicity.com/PrayerTimes/>

Salat involves a particular series of movements and the recitation of set prayers.

The following passage from the Qur'an is said at the beginning of each of the five daily prayers, during the standing part of the worship. Muslims learn the text and recite it from memory. The chanting, songlike tones of the recitation also are learned by heart. Here is a translation of the opening prayer:

Surah al Fatihah (The Opening)

Praise Be to God, the
Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds,
Most Gracious, Most Merciful
Master of the Day of Judgment,
Thee do we worship, and thine aid we seek.
Show us the straight way,
The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy mercy,
Of those who do not earn Thine anger, nor go astray.

(Qur'an, 1:1-7)

After formal prayers, worshipers move on to du'a, or prayers of personal supplication, in which they give thanks and make requests. Du'a prayers can be said at any time of day, and in any language. (Remember that salat, the formal prayers, must be recited in Arabic).

Muslims recite du'as for many reasons, such as when greeting a friend, before or after a meal, entering a marriage, taking a trip or visiting someone who is ill.