

קְצֵי קַדִּישׁ

קְצֵי קַדִּישׁ There are many forms of the prayer called *Kaddish*. Perhaps the best known is the "Mourners' Kaddish," which we recite near the end of the service in remembrance of loved ones who have died. The *Chatzi Kaddish* (or "Half Kaddish") is much older than the Mourners' Kaddish. It may be one of the oldest prayers that Jews recite. It appears throughout traditional liturgy to mark the separation between sections of the service. In our Shabbat morning service, we recite the *Chatzi Kaddish* following the end of the introductory sections of the service and right before the *Bar'chu*, the "Call to Prayer."

The *Chatzi Kaddish* is in Aramaic, not Hebrew. In the time of the ancient rabbis, Aramaic was the common language spoken by most Jews. The presence of this Aramaic prayer in the prayerbook shows that the ancient rabbis recognized the importance of praying in the vernacular, the common language of the people. In our congregation, we do the same thing when we recite some of our prayers in English.

The *Chatzi Kaddish* always marks a moment of transition in the service. The *Chatzi Kaddish* before the *Bar'chu* serves to signal worshippers that we have concluded the "spiritual warmup" section of the service and we are about to move into the first major section of the service, called "The Shema and Its Blessings." We respond by standing in attention and setting a personal intention within our hearts for our prayers.

Past Roots and Suffixes

ב – ח – ר – Choose

מ – ל – כ – Ruler

ב – ר – כ – Bless

ח – י – י – Life, live

ל – א – Root of the names of God

ב – א – Father

מ – א – Mother

מ – י – ו – Place, Put

ל – ד – ג – Great large

נ – ת – נ – Give

ר – ב – ג – Hero, power

ר – ב – ד – Speak

ל – א – ג – Save

ש – ד – ק – Holy, Sacred

ל – To, For

ו – And

ב – In, on

Translation

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name,
in the world which God created, according to plan.
May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime
and the life of all Israel -
speedily, imminently.
To which we say: Amen.

Blessed be God's great name to all eternity.

Blessed, praised, honored, exalted,
extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded
be the name of the Holy Blessed One,
beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort.
To which we say: Amen.