

Weekday Mincha Service

I. Basics

The service consists of the following basic elements:

- i. Ashrei
- ii. Amidah
- iii. Aleinu
- iv. Mourners Kaddish

In between these components are a few berakhot and kaddishes.

- The service should not be long - generally 15-20 min.
- The leader, when possible, should wear a tallit, but this is not required.
- Depending upon the time of day, the maariv service is often led after the mincha service. Sometimes a psalm is read in place of the maariv service, followed by a Mourners Kaddish.

II. Chanting vs. Speaking

- The service should be chanted according to the traditional “nusach” or melodies. The quality of the voice is not important, and the words take precedence over the melody.
- The mincha nusach, or melody, is not the same as the maariv nusach or Shabbat nusach, but it is similar to parts of the shacharit nusach.
- The leader need not say every word aloud. Most siddurim identify those verses which the leader, or “shalliach tzibbur” should say aloud.
- Some texts may be read aloud in English, but all berakhot should be chanted aloud in Hebrew.
- One person should lead the entire service, but it is possible for other individuals to read specific prayers or English texts.

III. Mincha Nusach

The melody for the maariv service uses the “magen avot” mode, which means it generally sounds something like “hatikva”. However, there are components which have their own, unique melody. Below is a roadmap for the major sections:

Section	Chanting Text	Melody
Ashrei	אֲשֶׁרִי יוֹשְׁבֵי בֵיתָךְ, עוֹד יִהְלֶלְךָ סֵלָה: ... תְּהִלָּתְךָ יְיָ יִדְבָּר פִּי, וּיְבָרֵךְ כָּל בֶּשֶׂר שֵׁם קִדְשׁוֹ, לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד: וְאֲנַחְנוּ נְבָרֵךְ יְהוָה, מֵעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם, הַלְלוּיָהּ:	Begin and end in minor
Chatsi Kaddish	יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ...	minor
Amidah	בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה...	special melody...Pentatonic Chant through the Kedusha
Tachanun	וְיֹאמְרוּ דָּוִד אֶל גָּד, צַר לִי מְאֹד, נִפְלָה נָא בְּיַד יְיָ, כִּי רַבִּים רַחֲמָיו וּבְיַד אֲדָם אֵל אֶפְלָה: ...	silent - optional
Kaddish Shaleim	יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ...	Simple minor
Aleinu	עָלֵינוּ לְשַׁבַּח לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל...	Special melody
Mourners Kaddish	יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ...	Say it aloud with mourners
Concluding psalm	(choice)	chant ending verse in minor

IV: Resources

The sound file for the mincha service can be downloaded from:

[http://www.bethshalomkc.info/hazzan/services/weekday/
weekday_mincha_ashrei_and_kaddish_prs.mp3](http://www.bethshalomkc.info/hazzan/services/weekday/weekday_mincha_ashrei_and_kaddish_prs.mp3)

The text of the mincha service can be downloaded from:

http://www.bethshalomkc.info/hazzan/services/weekday/weekday_mincha.pdf

For commentary on the Weekday Service, see Or Hadash, by Reuven Hammer, Rabbinical Assembly, NY, 2008.