

SHABBAT: EARLY MA'ARIV

Shabbat: Ideal Time for Ma'ariv

The ideal time for ma'ariv on Friday night is whenever will make everyone (or most people!) happy. It can be any time from plag ha'mincha (1 1/4 halachic hours before sunset), until 72 minutes before sunrise, but should properly be said before midnight.

Saying Ma'ariv at Plag HaMincha

You may say ma'ariv on Friday afternoon (erev Shabbat) as early as plag ha'mincha (1 1/4 halachic hours before sunset), as long as you say mincha before saying ma'ariv. So, if it is now plag ha'mincha, you may say mincha and then follow it as soon as you wish with ma'ariv.

NOTE On erev Shabbat, you do not need to say mincha before plag ha'mincha in order to say ma'ariv before sunset. This is unlike on weekdays, when you must say mincha before plag in order to say ma'ariv before sunset.

Answering Kedusha If You Accepted Shabbat

SITUATION You have begun Shabbat early and you are at a minyan where they are saying kedusha for Friday.

WHAT TO DO Reply to kedusha.

Beginning Shabbat Early When Friday Is Rosh Chodesh

SITUATION You begin Shabbat early when Rosh Chodesh falls on Friday.

WHAT TO DO Do not say ya'aleh v'yavo in ma'ariv (along with the normal Shabbat prayers).