

# Friday Prayer (Salat al-Jumu'ah)

According to the rulings of Ayatullah Sayyid Ali Sistani (may Allah swt prolong his life)

## What Is Friday Prayer?

- Friday Prayer (*Salat al-Jumu'ah*) is a congregational prayer performed at Zawal (*Dhuhr*) on Friday.
- It replaces the Dhuhr (*noon*) prayer for those who attend it.

## Which Prayer Does It Replace?

- Friday Prayer replaces Dhuhr prayer on Friday
- If Friday Prayer is not attended or not valid, Dhuhr must be offered.
- If the two khutabs combined last longer than 45 minutes, then it is an obligatory precaution to perform the Dhur prayer afterward. If they go beyond 75 minutes, then the Dhuhr prayer must be performed.
- 'Asr prayer remains obligatory after Friday Prayer (4 rak'ahs).

## Legal Ruling

- Friday Prayer is wajib takhyiri (optional obligation)
- One may choose Friday Prayer or Dhuhr, but it is better to perform Jumu'ah so long as conditions are met.

## How Many Rak'ahs Is Friday Prayer?

- 2 rak'ahs of prayer
- 2 sermons (khutbahs) before the prayer
- The two sermons are part of the Friday Prayer



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# Friday Prayer (Salat al-Jumu'ah) Literacy T o o l k i t

## Introduction

This Jumu'ah Literacy Toolkit is an educational service resource presented by the Imam Mahdi Association of Marjaeya (**I.M.A.M.**) and facilitated by **Luminaries** youth group. It is designed to help community members better understand the purpose, structure, and rulings of Salat al-Jumu'ah (Friday Prayer) and to encourage informed and attentive participation.

- Salat al-Jumu'ah (*Friday Prayer*) is a congregational prayer performed at zawal (*Dhuhr time*) on Fridays. When attended and valid, it replaces the Dhuhr (*noon*) prayer.
- In the Ja'fari (*Shi'a*) school, Jumu'ah is wājib takhyīrī (*an optional obligation*): one may choose between Jumu'ah and Dhuhr, though Jumu'ah is preferred when its conditions are fulfilled.

## Key aspects of Jumu'ah

- A time for Muslims to gather as a community and interact.
- Involves two sermons (*khutbah*) delivered by the Imam with a short pause between the sermons.
- A chance to strengthen faith and increase knowledge.
- A blessed day with increased opportunities for spiritual rewards.

## How Is Friday Prayer Performed?

### Prayer Steps:

1. Intention (Niyyah) and Takbirat al-Ihram
2. Recitation by the Imam:
  - Surah al-Fatiha
  - Another complete surah. It is recommended to recite Surah al-Jumuah.
3. Qunut (before ruku') is mustahab
4. Ruku'
5. Two Sajdahs
6. Stand for the second rak'ah
7. Recitation by the Imam
  - Surah al-Fatiha
  - Another complete surah. It is recommended to recite Surah al-Munafiqoon.
8. Ruku' → Qunut
9. Two Sajdahs
10. Tashahhud and Salam

## The Friday Sermons (Khutbahs)

### Requirements:

- The first sermon should include praise of Allah swt, a reminder to believers about piety, and recitation of a short surah of the Quran.
- There should be a pause between the sermons, and the Imam should sit briefly to indicate the pause. The Imam should be standing while delivering the sermons, and the same Imam should lead the prayers.
- The second sermon should include praise of Allah swt, blessings and salutations on the Messenger of Allah and his progeny (p), and seeking forgiveness for the believers.
- It is not necessary that the believers should be addressed in Arabic. It is necessary to address the attendees in a language they understand.

## Etiquette During the Khutbah

- Listening attentively is obligatory.
- Talking, reading, or using phones is disliked (makruh).
- Sit respectfully and calmly.

## Conditions for a Valid Friday Prayer

- Must be prayed in congregation
- Minimum of 5 male baligh attendees (1 Imam + 4 followers) are necessary.
- A qualified Imam (a dutiful person) should deliver the sermons and lead the prayer. He should recite the Quran in correct Arabic and know the necessary jurisprudential rules of prayer.
- Friday Prayers should not be held too close together. There must be a distance of at least one farsakh (5.5 km or 3.4 miles) between 2 Jumuah prayers.

## Purification and Preparation

- Ritual purity is required (wudu or a sufficient ghusl).
- Ghusl al-Jumu'ah is strongly recommended on Friday; if performed under the conditions, wudu is not required.
- It is recommended to wear clean, modest clothing, use an appropriate fragrance, and focus on the remembrance of Allah (swt).

## If someone joins the prayer

- Joining before the ruku' of the second rak'ah → prayer is valid. If someone joins during the ruku' of the second rak'a, as an obligatory precaution, they should pray Dhuhr after as well. Make sure to complete the second rak'a after the Imam completes Taslim.
- Missing the Friday prayer → pray Dhuhr instead.

## Quick Checklist Before You Go

- Wudu or Ghusl done
- Clean clothes
- Arrive early
- Silence phone
- Listen attentively
- Pray with sincerity

## Summary

This toolkit provides a comprehensive overview of Jumu'ah (*Friday*) prayer, its significance, and how to observe it properly. By understanding the Qur'anic foundation, the steps involved, the rules for validity, and the importance of preparation and etiquette, Muslims can enhance their Jumu'ah experience and draw closer to Allah (swt).

**Remember to always seek knowledge and strive to improve your understanding and practice of Islam.**

### Jurisprudence Reference:

Rulings based on:  
<https://www.sistani.org/english/book/48/2210/>

