

S'LIHOT

יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי רַחֲמוֹם וְחַנּוּן, אֲרַךְ אַפַּיִם וְרַב חַסֵּד וְאֵמֶת
 נִצֵּר חַסֵּד לְאֱלֹפִים נִשְׂא עֵוֹן וּפְשָׁע וְחַטָּאת, וְנִקָּה.
 וְסַלְחֵת לְעֹנְנֵנוּ וּלְחַטָּאתֵנוּ, וְנִחַלְתֵּנוּ.

*Adonai, Adonai, merciful and patient God,
 You forgive our wrongdoings and our sins.*

Adonai, answer our prayers with Your lovingkindness.

AVODAH SERVICE

In the days of the *Beit Mikdash* (Temple) in Jerusalem, a special service was held on *Yom Kippur*. On this day alone, the High Priest entered the room known as the Holy of Holies in which the Ark was placed. On this day alone, he also uttered the holy name of God. This was the name God told Moses at the burning bush. How this name was actually pronounced was never written down, so we don't know how to say it today. After the Temple was destroyed, the High Priest's prayers of confession became a part of our *Yom Kippur* service. They remind us to be devoted to God in both word and deed.

The High Priest used to say: Answer me, God, for I and my whole family have sinned before You. Forgive us. For it is written in Your holy Torah: "On this day I will grant you a new beginning and forgive all your sins."

Then, when the priests and all the people standing in the courtyard of the Temple heard the special name of God, they would bow and kneel. They would shout out the words, "Praised be God's glorious reign for ever and ever."