

The five daily prayers

Five appointments, fixed by the sun, not by convenience. What each one is, when it opens, and when it closes.



Fajr · 2 rak'ah

From true dawn until sunrise. Prayed before the day takes hold of you.

- The two sunnah rak'ah before it are of the most stressed

Qur'an 17:78 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Masajid

Zuhur · 4 rak'ah

From just after the sun passes its highest point, until an object's shadow equals its own length.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Masajid

'Aṣr · 4 rak'ah

From the end of Zuhur until sunset — but do not leave it until the sun yellows.

- Called “the middle prayer” by many of the scholars

Qur'an 2:238 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Masajid

Maghrib · 3 rak'ah

From sunset until the red twilight has gone. The one prayer with an odd number of rak'ah.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Masajid

'Isha' · 4 rak'ah

From the end of the twilight until midnight. Delaying it past that is excused only by necessity.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Masajid

At fixed times

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

“Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times.”

Qur'an 4:103

The first thing reckoned

The first of a servant's deeds to be looked at on the Day of Resurrection is the prayer. If it is sound, the rest follows.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 413 · hasan

What leaving it means

“Between a man and disbelief and idolatry stands the abandonment of prayer.”

Sahih Muslim 82

If you miss one

Pray it as soon as you remember. Sleeping through it or forgetting is not a sin; leaving it deliberately is.

Sahih al-Bukhari 597 · Sahih Muslim 684