

Ṣalātu I-Witr (Opinion 2)

- Definition: Ṣalatu I-Witr is performed after the ‘ishā’ ṣalāh until the time of the fajr (ṣubḥ) prayer enters. It cannot be performed before the farḍ of ‘ishā’.
- Status: Confirmed sunnah (mu’akkadah)
- Procedure:
 1. Perform two rak’ahs and complete the second rak’ah with the salām. It is sunnah to recite sūratu I-’a’lā (after sūratu I-fātiḥah) in the first rak’ah and sūratu I-kāfirūn (after sūratu I-fātiḥah) in the second rak’ah.
 2. Perform the third rak’ah by itself and end with salām. It is sunnah to recite sūratu I-ikhhlās, sūratu I-falaq, and sūratu n-nās (after sūratu I-fātiḥah).
 3. The qunūt is said in the third rak’ah from the 16th night of Ramaḍān till the end of Ramaḍān. (The qunūt is also recited daily when standing after rukū’ in the second rak’ah of the fajr ṣalāh.)

*This is the relied-upon position. However, there is another opinion that allows the qunūt to be recited daily during the witr prayer.

4. Method of saying the qunūt:

- When standing up after rukū', the hands are raised in line with the shoulders, with the palms facing the worshipper. There should be a gap between the hands so that the place of sujūd can be seen.
- One should say the following du'ā':

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنِي فِيمَنْ هَدَيْتَ (آمِينَ) وَعَافِنِي فِيمَنْ

عَافَيْتَ (آمِينَ) وَتَوَلَّنِي فِيمَنْ تَوَلَّيْتَ (آمِينَ) وَبَارِكْ لِي فِيمَا

أَعْطَيْتَ (آمِينَ) وَقِنِي شَرَّ مَا قَضَيْتَ (آمِينَ) فَإِنَّكَ تَقْضِي وَلَا

يُقْضَى عَلَيْكَ وَإِنَّهُ لَا يَدُلُّ مَنْ وَّالَيْتَ وَلَا يَعِزُّ مَنْ عَادَيْتَ

تَبَارَكْتَ رَبَّنَا وَتَعَالَيْتَ فَلَكَ الْحَمْدُ عَلَى مَا قَضَيْتَ أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ

وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ

وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ .

al-Lāhumma hdinī fī man hadayt ('āmīn), wa 'āfinī fī man 'āfayt ('āmīn), wa
tawallanī fī man tawallayt ('āmīn), wa bārik lī fī mā 'a'tayt ('āmīn), wa qinī sharra
mā qaḍayt ('āmīn), fa innaka taqḍī wa lā yuqḍā 'alayka wa 'innahū lā ya dhillu ma
w-wālayta wa lā wa'izzu man 'ādayta tabārakta Rabbanā wa ta'ālayta falaka l-
ḥamdu 'alā mā qaḍayta 'astaghfiruka wa 'atūbu 'ilayka wa ṣalli l-Lāhu 'alā
sayyidinā muḥammadi w-wa 'alā ālihi wa ṣaḥbihi wa sallam

O Allāh, guide me among those whom You have guided, grant me safety among
those You have granted safety, take me as a friend amongst those whom You
have taken as friends. Bless me in that which You have bestowed upon me. Guard
me from the evil of that which You have ordained; for it is You who ordains and
none can ordain against You. Indeed, he is never disgraced whom You take as a
friend, and he is never honored from whom You have turned. Blessed are You,
our Lord, and Exalted. Praise belongs to you upon that which You have ordained. I
beg Your forgiveness and turn to You in repentance. Send blessings, O Allāh,
upon our Noble Muḥammad, his family, and his companions; peace be upon
them.

- A person praying behind the imām should say, “Āmīn” at the appropriate parts of the du‘ā’ (the imām and the person praying alone do not say, “Āmīn” during the du‘ā’).
5. After completing the qunūt, say, “Āmīn”, drop the hands to the sides (without wiping the face), proceed to sajdah, and then complete the ṣalāh.