

A top-down view of a person in white prayer attire (thobe and ghutra) performing Salah on a highly patterned, colorful rug. The person is in a prostration position, with their forehead touching the rug. The rug features intricate floral and geometric designs in various colors. The background is a solid green color.

# **The Way to Perform Congregational Salah**



## The Way to Perform Congregational *Salah*

- The minimum number required to form a congregational prayer, in a mosque or elsewhere, is two persons: an **Imam** and one follower.
- The Imam should stand one or more steps ahead of the followers, who should line up behind him in straight, compact, parallel rows, all facing the direction of the **Ka`bah**. When the congregation is all-female, the female Imam should stand in the middle of the first row, and not ahead of the followers.
- A **Ma`mum** (follower; person being led in prayer) should follow the Imam in all the actions of prayer until the Imam concludes the prayer with **Taslim** (salutation of peace ending the Prayer). The followers should take care not to precede the Imam, or move with him, or lag behind him; rather, their movements should come immediately after his. So they should not bow until the Imam bows or prostrate until he prostrates.

- This is based on the saying of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him): **“The Imam is only appointed to be followed, so when he says *Takbir* then say *Takbir*, and do not say *Takbir* until after he has said *Takbir*; and when he bows then bow, and do not bow until after he has bowed; and when he says ‘*Sami’a Allahu liman hamidah,*’ then say ‘*Allahumma rabbana lakal-hamd*’; and when he prostrates then prostrate, and do not prostrate until he has prostrated.”** (Narrated by Abu Dawud)
- Reciting **Al-Fatihah** is obligatory for the one who is praying behind the Imam, whether the congregational *Salah* is **Sirri** (prayer in which the Imam recites the Qur’an inaudibly), such as Zuhr and `Asr Prayers, the third *Rak`ah* of Maghrib Prayer, and the third and fourth *Rak`ahs* of `Isha' Prayer); or it is **Jahri** (prayer in which the Imam recites the Qur’an audibly), such as Fajr Prayer, the first two *Rak`ahs* of Maghrib and `Isha' Prayers, *Jumu`ah* (Friday) Prayer, and the Two Eid Prayers.
- Latecomers, who join the congregational prayer late and miss one *Rak`ah* or more, should **make up the missed parts of their prayer** alone, after the Imam says *Taslim*. They should stand up to make up what they have missed of the prayer without saying *Taslim* with the Imam. According to majority scholarly opinion, a *Rak`ah* is counted as long as the latecomer catches up with the Imam in the bowing position and is able to bow with the Imam before he raises his head from the bowing. This *Rak`ah* is counted in this case, and the follower does not have to make it up.





“And they who carefully maintain their prayers –  
they are the inheritors who will inherit Paradise.  
They will abide therein eternally.”

(QUR'AN 23:9-11)