# Come Home for the High Holy Days at Congregation Or Ami
# 2026 5787

**Services led by:**

**Rabbi Gideon Estes**
**Dr. Rebecca Musher Gross**

***May the New Year bring you and your loved ones blessings of joy, health, and peace.***

Congregation OR AMI Light of My People

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Houston, Texas 77042
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Dear Friend,

With great pleasure, we welcome you to join us for High Holy Day worship services at Congregation Or Ami. Let us all join together to usher in a New Year full of joy, song, hope, and resilience. The High Holy Days give us time to pause and reflect on life, to take stock of all things precious and dear to us. These holidays offer an opportunity to strengthen and support one another as we gather as a synagogue community.

Looking forward to 5787, we continue our religious services and membership programming that are the traditions and backbone of Or Ami. Young and young at heart will enjoy our spirited Sababa Shabbatot, our monthly stimulating Limmud Shabbat discussions, Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Estes, Senior Trips, Austerlitz Shabbat and an array of programs throughout the year.

For the coming holidays, Rabbi Estes and the Ritual Practices Committee have sought to create a worship atmosphere in which we can reflect on the past and then draw upon our spiritual resources to lead better personal and communal lives. We invite your participation and encourage you to join fully in our High Holy Days services. Rabbi Estes and Dr. Rebecca Musher Gross will once again lead the services. This year marks Dr. Gross' thirty-fifth year serving as cantor.

Our holiday services will be offered on Zoom for those who are unable to attend in the Strudler-Gladstone Sanctuary. A special holiday Zoom link will be sent to everyone prior to Erev Rosh Hashanah for you to access our holiday services online. Shabbat Shuva (the Shabbat service between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) will use the regular weekly prayer link.

**As in past years, we will offer youth services and provide babysitting.** Youth services will be scheduled for the first day of Rosh Hashanah morning service and Yom Kippur morning.

We prepared the enclosed High Holy Day packet to help you in planning for this important season. Please review the packet and return the appropriate forms. We will make tickets available for pickup when you arrive for services.

**Please return your forms by <u>Friday, August 28, 2026.</u>** If you have any special needs, **please contact Anne Perlmutter, Co-President and Ritual Practices Committee chair, at 713-516-6776 or email ampvideo@aol.com.**

Our families join us in wishing you a Shanah Tova U'Metukah, a sweet New Year blessed with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

B'Shalom,

**Terry Schlanger**
**Co-President**

**Anne Perlmutter**
**Co-President and Chair, Ritual Practices**

# Schedule of Services 2026/5787

| Service | Date | Time |
|---|---|---|
| Selichot Services | Saturday evening, September 5 | 9:00 pm |
| Erev Rosh Hashanah | Friday evening, September 11 | 8:00 pm |
| Rosh Hashanah 1st Day<br>Youth Services | Saturday morning, September 12 | 9:00 am<br>10:00 am |
| Erev Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day | Saturday evening, September 12 | 8:00 pm |
| Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day | Sunday morning, September 13 | 9:00 am |
| Tashlich Service | Sunday afternoon, September 13 | Following services |
| Shabbat Shuva | Friday evening, September 18<br>Saturday morning, September 19 | 6:45 pm<br>9:30 am |
| Kol Nidrei | Sunday evening, September 20 | 6:45 pm * |
| *Please arrive by **6:35 pm** for a prompt **6:45 pm** start. | | |
| Yom Kippur Day | Monday morning, September 21 | 9:00 am |
| Youth Services | | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon study | | 4:30 pm |
| Mincha & Neilah | | 5:30 pm |
| Break Fast Meal following services in the Flax Social Hall | Monday evening, September 21 | Approx. 7:50 pm |
| Sukkah building | Wednesday evening, September 23 | 6:30 pm |
| Sukkot begins on Friday evening, September 25, 2026 | | |

## Tallit/Kippot

The custom of wearing a kippah is a traditional practice that emphasizes humility before God. The tallit is a mitzvah (commandment) that symbolizes the 613 Torah laws that form the basis of our covenantal relationship with God, our fellow Jews, and all humanity. Out of respect for God and our tradition, we encourage all people to wear a kippah or cover their heads and all Jewish adults (post Bar or Bat Mitzvah) to wear a tallit. The tallit is also worn at the Kol Nidre service. Due to our limited supply, we ask you to please bring your own kippah and tallit.

## Tashlich

In order to give tangible expression to the prayers of the High Holy Days that ask for atonement from wrongdoing, the ceremony of Tashlich was instituted over 1,500 years ago. The act of symbolically casting ("Tashlich") away one's sins into a free-flowing body of water is based upon the words of the prophet Micah, who said, "And You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Congregation Or Ami will gather for Tashlich at the walking path next to the Robinson-Westchase Neighborhood Library **following Rosh Hashanah Day 2 services, September 13, 2026. Please park at Or Ami; participants will make the short walk together.** Please bring small pieces of bread to cast into the stream.

## High Holy Day Tickets

Each adult Congregation Or Ami member in good standing (**i.e., current with financial obligations to Or Ami and has submitted a completed 2026-2027 dues commitment form)**, will receive a ticket for entrance to our High Holy Days services. Your admission to Kol Nidrei services will be your High Holy Days Appeal ticket. Dependent children and college students of our members will be admitted with their parents. Adult immediate family of our members may purchase tickets for a donation of $36 per person. High Holy Days tickets for all services and break fast will be offered to the general Jewish community for a donation of $180 per adult (dependent children in college or younger are included with parents). Non-members may apply the cost of High Holy Days tickets toward membership dues through July 2027. We strongly encourage that such guests consider an appropriate contribution to our synagogue to support our activities in the coming year. *Please note: Congregation Or Ami honors reciprocity for High Holiday seating to those members who will be worshiping at other synagogues and guests who have a signed letter from their home congregation.*

## Youth Services/Babysitting

High Holy Days youth services will be held so that they may have a meaningful worship experience and understand the important messages of the holidays. Youth services are on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Day. Ages 8-11 will enjoy their service in the Jerry Rochman Family Library. Ages 5-7 will meet in a classroom. Babysitting is available for children ages 4 and under during all services with advance reservations. Snacks will be served.

## Yom Kippur Break Fast

Following Neilah on Yom Kippur Day, Monday, September 21, Congregation Or Ami will host a Break Fast Meal in the Flax Social Hall. Congregants will enjoy a full meal upon the conclusion of the holiday, prepared in the Jean & Allan Quiat Kitchen by Congregation Or Ami's wonderful kitchen committee. Please consider a donation to offset this cost on the High Holy Days form.

## High Holy Day Security

Security is provided during all High Holy Day services. Please consider a suggested $36 donation to help defray the costs of additional security during our services. This donation can be indicated on the following form.

## High Holy Day Beautification

If you would like to make a special donation toward beautifying our synagogue for the High Holy Days, please indicate on the following form.

## Book of Remembrance

For all four Yizkor services during 5787 (Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Passover, Shavuot), we will use a specially printed Book of Remembrance that recalls the names of beloved relatives. (A minimum contribution of $10 per name is suggested.)

# High Holy Days Forms 2026/5787

**MEMBER NAME(S): _____**

## High Holy Days Tickets

I would like to request guest tickets for the following members of my immediate family:
(Please consider a minimum donation of $36 per ticket)

| | |
|---|---|
| _____ | _____ |
| **Name** | **Relationship** |
| _____ | _____ |
| **Name** | **Relationship** |
| _____ | _____ |
| **Name** | **Relationship** |

I would like to request tickets ($180 each) for the following guests/friends:

| | |
|---|---|
| _____ | _____ |
| **Name** | **Name** |
| _____ | _____ |
| **Name** | **Name** |

## Babysitting

Please reserve space in babysitting for my children (check all that apply):

| Name & age | Rosh Hashanah I | Erev Rosh Hashanah II | Rosh Hashanah II | Kol Nidre | Yom Kippur |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

## High Holy Day Security

I would like to help defray the cost of added security with a contribution of $ _____ .
(A donation of $36 per family is suggested.)

## Beautification Fund

I would like to make a contribution of $ _____ to the Beautification Fund.

## Yom Kippur Break Fast

I would like to make a contribution of $ _____ to the Break Fast.
(A donation of $36 per family is suggested.)
Total Number Attending per family _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026.**
**WHETHER PAYING BY CHECK OR ZELLE, PLEASE INDICATE "HOLIDAYS 2026" IN THE MEMO TO ENSURE PROPER CREDIT.**

# Book of Remembrance Form 2026/5787

Names must be submitted to appear in the Book of Remembrance

**MEMBER NAME(S):** _____

**Names for whom a donation is made will be read aloud.**
*If you prefer them not to be read aloud during Yizkor, please check here* ☐

**If you would like to include the same names as last year, please check here ☐ and add any additional names in the spaces below.**

Please list the following name(s) for inclusion in the 5787 Or Ami's Book of Remembrance:

1. _____ 6. _____
2. _____ 7. _____
3. _____ 8. _____
4. _____ 9. _____
5. _____ 10. _____

By (your name(s)): _____
(A contribution of $10 per name is suggested)

# Yizkor Memorial Plaque Form 2026/5787

**I wish to order a Memorial Plaque and have enclosed $360 per plaque.**

English Name _____

Hebrew Name _____

English Date of Death: _____

Time of Death: ◯ Before Sunset ◯ After Sunset

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026.**
**WHETHER PAYING BY CHECK OR ZELLE, PLEASE INDICATE "HOLIDAYS 2026" IN THE MEMO TO ENSURE PROPER CREDIT.**

# Lulav and Etrog Orders

Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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Please check one or more of the choices below:

- ☐ Standard Etrog & Lulav Set - Fully Assembled **$60.00**
- ☐ Deluxe Etrog & Lulav Set - Fully Assembled **$70.00**
- ☐ Premium Etrog & Lulav Set - Fully Assembled **$80.00**

**Total Order: $_____ is enclosed.**

## ✸Made In Israel✸

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY <u>FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026.</u>**
**WHETHER PAYING BY CHECK OR ZELLE, PLEASE INDICATE "HOLIDAYS 2026" IN THE MEMO TO ENSURE PROPER CREDIT.**

# High Holy Days Packet Checklist and Payment Roster

This form must accompany any paperwork that you send back to the office.

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____ (Member 1)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____ (Member 2)

| FORM | AMOUNT | PLEASE CHECK |
|---|---|---|
| Congregation Or Ami Member Ticket(s) | ***Included with 2026-2027 dues commitment. Form enclosed if not previously submitted.*** | ☐ |
| Guest Ticket(s) for Immediate Family Member (≥$36 each) | $ | ☐ |
| Guest Ticket(s) for Friends ($180 each) | $ | ☐ |
| Babysitting | No Fee | ☐ |
| Security Donation | $ | ☐ |
| Beautification Fund | $ | ☐ |
| Yom Kippur Break Fast | $ | ☐ |
| Book of Remembrance | $ | ☐ |
| Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary | $ | ☐ |
| Lulav and Etrog | $ | ☐ |
| **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Holidays 2026 in memo)** | **$** | ☐ |
| **TOTAL AMOUNT BY ZELLE (Holidays 2026 in memo)** | **$** | ☐ |

*Please DO NOT combine High Holy Days payments with annual giving (dues) payments.*
*Thank you for your fees and contributions!*

**Please send your forms and payment for the total amount noted above no later than <u>FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026</u>.**

**If paying by check, mail to:**

Congregation Or Ami
3443 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, Texas 77042

**If paying by Zelle:**

Use recipient
treasurer@oramihouston.org
and mail or email forms.

**Please contact the synagogue office with any questions, 713-334-4300 or houstonorami@gmail.com.**