Hanukkah Blessings

Candles are added to the hanukkiyah (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.

Light the shamash (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights. As you do, say or sing:

בָּרוּךְ אֲתָהּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעולָם אַשֶּר קָדֵשֶׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָו וְשָׁבַחְנוּ הַנּוֹרָהּ מִדֶּלֶקֶת נְרָאָה הַנּוֹרָהּ.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tsivanu l’hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אֲתָהּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעולָם שֶׁאָסַח נִסִּים לָאָבָטָנוּ וְלָאִמּוֹתֵנוּ בָּיַמִּים הַחֲאֵמִים בָּזְמָן הָזֶה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v’imoteinu bayamim haahem baz’mahn hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

For first night only:

בָּרוּךְ אֲתָהּ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעולָם שֶׁהַשְּׁכֵחֵחַ נָא וְקִיַּמֵּנוּ וְחָגֵיֵנוּ בָּזְמָן הָזֶה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v’kiy’manu v’higiyanu laz’mahn hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Hanerot Halalu

We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.