**Friday Prayer**

Friday is a day of special importance for Muslims. The following verses of the Holy Quran relate to the congregational prayer on Friday:

**“O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday hasten earnestly to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off business; that is best for you if you but know! And when the prayers is finished, then may you disperse through the land and seek of the bounty of Allah…..(62:9,10)”**

Friday prayer takes the place of the Zuhr prayer on that day, and must be offered in congregation. It cannot be offered as a Qaza; if it is missed, one has to offer the Zuhr prayer.

Friday prayer is obligatory on all adult men of sound mind, who are healthy and are residents. It means that minors, slaves, travelers, women and the sick are exempted from it. The people are to offer Zuhr prayer. Attendance in Friday prayers is not only considered meritorious but a duty. Commercial transaction must be stopped after the first Azaan. A second Azan is called in the mosque after the congregation has assembled, the Iman stands up and delivers the sermon, which is an essential part of the Friday prayer. Delivering of sermon is obligatory (Farz) and listening to it is compulsory (Wajib). While the sermon is being delivered, no conversation is allowed. Even praying, reading the Quran or reciting Durood is forbidden. The sermon consists of two parts, each of which begins with praising Allah and asking blessings for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). In the first part, some Quranic passages are recited and explained. After this imam sits down for a short rest and then stands up to deliver the second part of the sermon. In this part especially, the imam prays for the general welfare of the Muslims.

After the sermon the **Iqamat** is called. The people arrange themselves in rows. The Imam, with his face towards the Qiblah leads to congregation. Friday Prayer consists of two Farz Raka’at. The Imam recites Surah Fatiha and other passages from the Holy Quran in each Raka’at in a loud voice. When this is done, the prayer is complete. After that, four sunnats, followed by two more sunnats and two nafal may be offered individually.

Friday prayer is a community prayer. Every Friday, Muslims living in the same area get together to offer this prayer. This gives them a chance to meet and help each other. It also creates unity and co-operation amongst them.