



Acts prescribed for comers to 'Eid Musalla

Q: A questioner from Riyadh writes that he has noticed that when some people come to offer the 'Eid Prayer, they offer two Rak'ahs (units of Prayer) while others do not, and some others start reciting the Takbir ("Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La ilaha illa Allah, Allahu Akbar wa Lillahi'l-hamd [Allah is the Greatest! Allah is the Greatest! There is no deity but Allah! Allah is the Greatest and to Allah is all praise!]").

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Please explain the Islamic rulings on these matters. Is there any difference between holding the 'Eid Prayer in the Masjid (mosque) or in the 'Eid Musalla (place for Prayer)?



A: The Sunnah (action following the example of the Prophet) for one who comes to the 'Eid Musalla to offer Salat-ul-'Eid (the Festival Prayer) or Salat-ul-Istisqa' (Prayer for rain), is to sit down and not offer Tahiyat-ul-Masjid (two-unit-Prayer to greet the mosque). It is not reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) or his Sahabah (Companions of the Prophet) did this, as far as we know. However, if the Salah (Prayer) is held inside a Masjid, then one should offer Tahiyat-ul-Masjid, because of the general applicability of the Hadith of the Prophet (peace be upon him): **(When anyone of you enters the Masjid, let them not sit down until they have prayed two Rak'ahs.)** (Agreed upon by Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

It is prescribed for those who sit awaiting the 'Eid Prayer to continuously recite Tahlil (saying: "La ilaha illa Allah [There is no god except Allah]") and Takbir (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]"), because these expressions of praise are the motto of this day, and this is the Sunnah for everyone inside or outside the Masjid, until the Khutbah (sermon) is over. If one busies himself with reading Qur'an, this is also commendable. May Allah grant us success!

Source: Fatwas of Ibn Baz