SHMINI ATZERET

Introduction to Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Timing

In *Eretz Yisrael*, *Shmini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* are observed on the same day. Outside of *Eretz Yisrael*, *Simchat Torah* is the second day of what becomes a two-day festival.

Prayers

We begin mentioning rain in the second paragraph of the *musaf amida* of *Shmini Atzeret* and continue until the first day of *Passover*.

Universal Customs

The universal custom is to complete the reading of the *Torah* and to begin reading it again on *Simchat Torah*. Dancing and singing with the *Torah* scrolls is also a universal custom.

Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: What Time To Start: Ma'ariv and Kiddush

Ma'ariv on *Shmini Atzeret* and on *Simchat Torah* may be said from 1 1/4 hours before sunset. *Kiddush* must be said after dark.

Shmini Atzeret: Eating in Sukka

For whether to eat in your *sukka* on *Shmini Atzeret*, see *Sukka: Shmini Atzeret*.

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