# SHMINI ATZERET

#### **Introduction to Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah**

#### **Timing**

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

### **Prayers**

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

#### **Universal Customs**

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

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

<u>Ma'ariv</u> on <u>Shmini Atzeret</u> and on <u>Simchat Torah</u> may be said from 1 1/4 hours before sunset. <u>Kiddush</u> 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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