

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 anida 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.