

אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלָכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד!

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!

The enlarged *ayin* at the end of שמע *Shima* (Hear) and the enlarged *dalet* at the end of אחד *echad* (one) combine to spell עד *eid* (witness). We recite the *Shima* to bear witness to the Oneness of God.

שמע ישראל *Shima Yisrael*... Hear, O Israel... Deuteronomy 6:4