LEVITICUS

Chapter 9

*The Priests Begin Their Ministry*

**On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. 2 He said to Aaron, “Take a bull calf for your sin offering and a ram for your burnt offering, both without defect, and present them before the Lord. 3 Then say to the Israelites: ‘Take a male goat for a sin offering, a calf and a lamb—both a year old and without defect—for a burnt offering, 4 and an ox and a ram for a fellowship offering to sacrifice before the Lord, together with a grain offering mixed with oil. For today the Lord will appear to you.’ ” 5 They took the things Moses commanded to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and the entire assembly came near and stood before the Lord. 6 Then Moses said, “This is what the Lord has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you.” 7 Moses said to Aaron, “Come to the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and the people; sacrifice the offering that is for the people and make atonement for them, as the Lord has commanded.” 8 So Aaron came to the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself. 9 His sons brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger into the blood and put it on the horns of the altar; the rest of the blood he poured out at the base of the altar. 10 On the altar he burned the fat, the kidneys and the covering of the liver from the sin offering, as the Lord commanded Moses; 11 the flesh and the hide he burned up outside the camp. 12 Then he slaughtered the burnt offering. His sons handed him the blood, and he sprinkled it against the altar on all sides. 13 They handed him the burnt offering piece by piece, including the head, and he burned them on the altar. 14 He washed the inner parts and the legs and burned them on top of the burnt offering on the altar. 15 Aaron then brought the offering that was for the people. He took the goat for the people’s sin offering and slaughtered it and offered it for a sin offering as he did with the first one. 16 He brought the burnt offering and offered it in the prescribed way. 17 He also brought the grain offering, took a handful of it and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning’s burnt offering. 18 He slaughtered the ox and the ram as the fellowship offering for the people. His sons handed him the blood, and he sprinkled it against the altar on all sides. 19 But the fat portions of the ox and the ram—the fat tail, the layer of fat, the kidneys and the covering of the liver— 20 these they laid on the breasts, and then Aaron burned the fat on the altar. 21 Aaron waved the breasts and the right thigh before the Lord as a wave offering, as Moses commanded. 22 Then Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin offering, the burnt offering and the fellowship offering, he stepped down. 23 Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. 24 Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown.**

**9:1–4** The eighth day of ordination marked the beginning of a new era. Prior to this day, Moses had served as officiant. But the days of purification and consecration were complete, and Aaron and his sons began their service to God in their capacity as high priest and priests. (Note how the seven days of consecration correspond to the seven days of creation.) (TLSB)

**9:1** *eighth day.* After the seven days of ordination (8:33). (CSB)

**9:2** *sin offering.* See notes on 4:3, 5. (CSB)

*burnt offering.* See note on 1:3. (CSB)

**9:4** *fellowship offering.* See note on 3:1. (CSB)

*grain offering.* See note on 2:1. (CSB)

*Lord will appear.* See vv. 6, 23; see also note on Ge 12:7. (CSB)

**9:5** *stood before the Lord*. As part of their worship of God, the entire Israelite community gathered before Him. (TLSB)

**9:15** *the people’s offering*. Leaders of various tribes brought their offerings to Aaron (vv 1–5a). Aaron presented them to God (vv 15–21), performing the rite of atonement on behalf of the Israelite congregation (v 7b). (TLSB)

**9:17** *morning’s burnt offering.* See Ex 29:38–42. (CSB)

**9:18** *peace offerings for the people*. This special offering, instituted only on high holy days and special occasions, marked “peace” between God and man and included a meal shared by family and invited guests of the offerer. Most likely, the leaders shared a communal meal involving the meat of this sacrifice. (TLSB)

**9:21** *wave offering.* See note on 7:30–32. (CSB)

**9:22** Aaron lifted his hands toward the congregation and bestowed God’s blessing on them. Cf Dt 10:8; 1Ch 23:13. (TLSB)

*blessed.* The Aaronic benediction, a threefold blessing, is given in Nu 6:23–26. Cf. the threefold apostolic benediction in 2Co 13:14. (CSB)

*he came down*. Aaron came down the altar ramp. (TLSB)

**9:23** *glory of the Lord*. See v. 6; cf. the display of the Lord’s glory at the erection of the tabernacle (Ex 40:34–35); cf. also God’s acceptance of sacrifices at the dedication of Solomon’s temple (2Ch 7:1). (CSB)

Moses led Aaron into the tent of meeting to set the precedent for daily entry of the high priest into the Holy Place (Ex 28:29) to burn incense (Ex 30:7–8). (TLSB)

*they blessed*. They returned with an unstated blessing from almighty God. (TLSB)

**9:24** *Fire came out from the presence of the Lord*. See 10:2; 1Ki 18:38. (CSB)

*consumed*. God’s fire “ate up” the burnt offering lying on the altar. (TLSB)

**Ch 9** Aaron begins his priestly duties with God’s approval. In the Divine Service, God’s people today share much in common with God’s OT people. Like them, we come before God and humbly confess our sins. We also seek anew the promise of forgiveness offered by God’s grace. • Precious Lord, we thank You for the glimpse of salvation in the sacrifices offered by Your OT priests. May we grow to understand the binding relationship we share through the Aaronic blessing and the communal meal made possible by the great atoning offering of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. (TLSB)