The 9th century

The Carolingian renaissance.

Charlemagne's schools copied and saved most of the Latin classics we have, in a new clear script. Then Viking raids tested the West again.

What rose

800. Charlemagne is crowned emperor in Rome. Source: Charlemagne

c. 800. Carolingian minuscule, ancestor of our lowercase letters. Source: Carolingian minuscule

9th c.. Monastic scriptoria copy classical texts; manuscript output rises about fivefold. Source: Carolingian Renaissance

871–99. Alfred the Great defends Wessex and promotes learning in English. Source: Alfred the Great

What fell or stalled

Viking raids struck from Ireland to Paris. Source: Viking Age

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