

LENT: JESUS' SACRIFICE FOR US

March 29, 2025

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Isaiah 53:2b-6, 1 John 4:9-11

Memory Verse

¹⁸ I, the Lord, invite you to come and talk it over. Your sins are scarlet red, but they will be whiter than snow or wool.

Isaiah 1:18



CASEY'S DAY

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Why did Jesus have to die? That's one of the big questions you may have during Lent. And it's a good question! After all, Jesus was *perfect*. He never did anything wrong. He loved everyone and obeyed God *all* the time. Why would Jesus have to suffer through people making fun of him and torturing him? Why did he have to suffer such a terrible, painful death on the cross?

During the Old Testament, God's people sacrificed animals as a way to make **atonement**, or payment, for their sins. They would give an animal, like a lamb, as their offering to God to show they remembered their broken promises, turned away from their sins, and followed God. God's people took great care when they picked an animal to sacrifice. They wouldn't use one that was blemished or dirty; they chose flawless animals.

But God had a great rescue plan that wouldn't just pay for the sins of one or two people; it would pay for the sins of the whole world. The world was so broken, so stained by sin, that only the perfect Son of God, Jesus,

could fix it. *Jesus sacrificed himself because he was perfect.* We have all sinned and chosen to go our way instead of God's. But Jesus took the punishment we deserved so we could be made right with God. We couldn't fix our broken relationship with God, so God fixed it for us with Jesus' self-sacrificing love.

Because Jesus died on the cross, the stain of our sin is washed away. We are clean and new again! And the good news is that the Easter story didn't end on the cross; Jesus defeated sin and death once and for all. God raised Jesus from the dead. He is alive! Because Jesus is alive, we have hope that we will be with him forever and ever in a world without sin, sickness, or death. When you remember what Jesus did on the cross, thank Jesus for his incredible sacrifice.

Prayer

Dear God, I know I have chosen to go my way instead of yours. Thank you that Jesus paid the price for my sins and gave me a new life through him. Help me to remember his sacrifice and share the good news of his love. Amen.

written by Areo Keller-Donahue