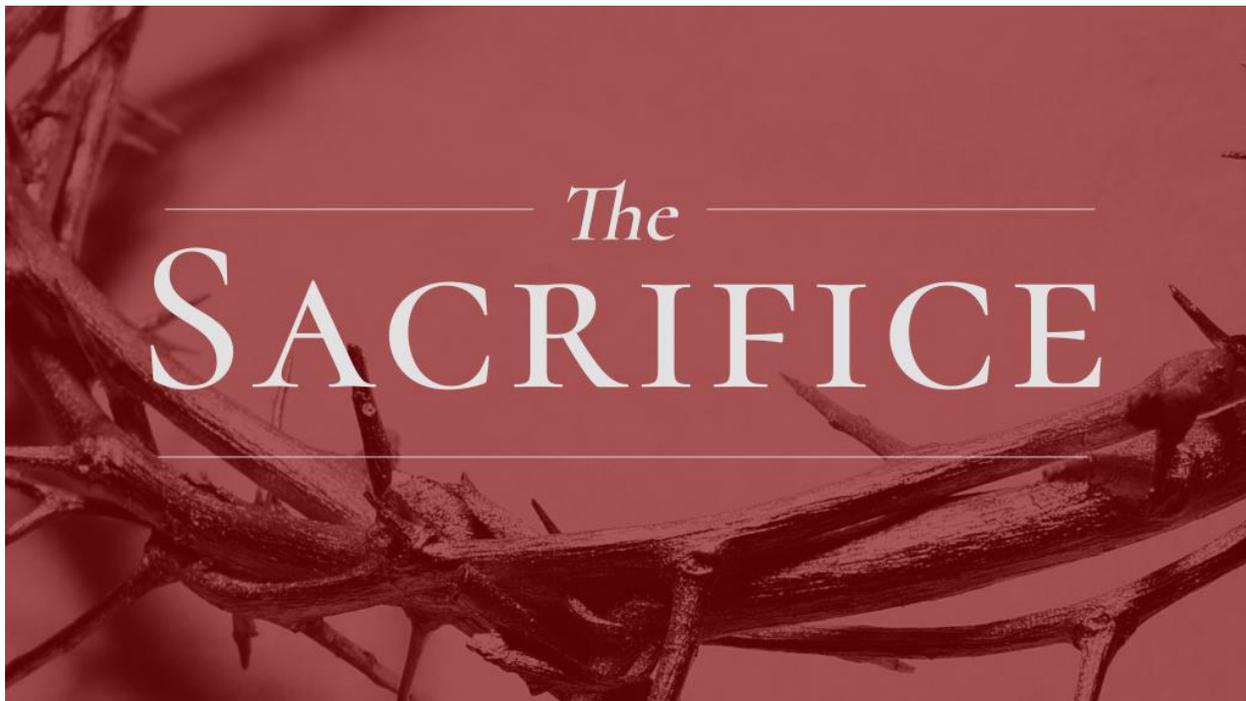


# THE SACRIFICE\*

*Jesus is the Sacrifice Who fulfills the Old Covenant sacrificial system. He died in our place for our sin.*

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
Psalm 22:1-11 <b>John 3</b> <b>John 15:1-17</b> <b>Romans 3</b> <b>Romans 5</b> Romans 5:6-9 <b>Hebrews 10:1-10</b> Hebrews 10:11-14 <b>1 John 3</b> <b>1 John 5</b>  [There are too many appropriate passages and songs to list.]	Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed <b>And Can It Be (Forrest) SATB or Solo</b> Arise, My Soul, Arise Here Is Love How Deep the Father's Love for Us <b>Jesus Paid It All (Sterling or Pinkston) SATB</b> My Jesus, Fair <b>Rock of Ages (Arr. Lopez) SATB or Solo</b> Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted The Old Rugged Cross The Power of the Cross There Is a Fountain When I Survey the Wondrous Cross <b>When Love Came Down (Shackley) SATB</b>



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* Theme corresponds to **Memorial Day**. Previous titles: “Self-Sacrificing God,” “The Ultimate Sacrifice.”

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## DYING FOR THE ENEMY

*[Extrapolate from the reading below.]*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

On Memorial Day, we honor our soldiers who have given their lives in exchange for our freedom. Generally speaking, soldiers (especially volunteer soldiers like we have in the U.S.) are rare. Most people would not willingly die for someone else—even for a good person. And soldiers never lay down their lives for the enemy.

The level of God’s sacrifice for our sake goes beyond even the noble sacrifice of a soldier who dies for his country and his friends. Romans 5:7 says that the instances are “scarce” of someone dying for a “righteous man” and that it is even more rare for a someone to give his life for a “good man.” The next verse, though, begins with an amazing phrase: “But God....” God showed His love for us with this incredible sacrifice: “while we were yet sinners [His enemies!], Christ died for us.”

Bob Hilsabeck was a medic with the 31st Infantry Regiment US Army during the Korean War. On one occasion an enemy prisoner, a North Korean, was accidentally shot by another U.S. soldier. Bob responded and began treating the enemy soldier. Shortly after treating the soldier, Bob contracted tuberculosis and the Army determined that he contracted this sickness while he was treating the North Korean soldier. Bob was sent to Prescott, AZ, to recuperate.

[Write a summary paragraph to finish the theme.]

## SACRIFICE FOR INDIVIDUALS

*Memorial Day is a day that we remember those who sacrificed for others. While those who sacrifice for the great cause of their country's safety and freedom, what motivates their willingness to sacrifice is much more immediate. On the day of battle, soldiers sacrifice for one another, for their brothers in combat. And often, it costs them their lives.*

*Find several stories of soldiers who jumped on a grenade to save their comrades. Those few individuals in the grenade's vicinity are threatened with certain death unless one man is willing to be a sacrifice. In the same way, Christ absorbs the blast of God's wrath. He sacrifices not just for a concept; He died for us personally, individually. [Extrapolate from the reading below.]*

**Promotional Post:** Soldiers with combat experience often testify that whatever the reasons they enlisted for military service, in the heat of the battle they're mostly fighting for "the guy next to them."

On Memorial Day, we honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives, not just for our country, but often times for the preservation of their fellow soldiers. Jesus was the Sacrifice in our place. Yes, He died for the sins of the whole world; but He died for you.

Join us to worship Him this Sunday. These passages can help you prepare: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## SINNERS FOR SINNERS

*We are deeply grateful for the sacrifices of those who have died to secure the freedom we have in the United States. But every Memorial Day sacrifice still involves sinners dying for sinners. Jesus' death for us was different from other sacrifices in several ways: 1. We are ultimately unworthy. None of us can claim to be the "righteous man" or even the "good man" from Romans 5. We are sinners who deserve the righteous wrath of God to be poured out on our sin. 2. Jesus' suffering was greater than anyone else's suffering. He died a slow, painful death, executed unjustly for crimes He did not commit. More than that, He suffered being forsaken by God the Father, a pain we cannot understand. 3. Jesus is supremely valuable. The Just One willingly laid down His life for the unjust. The Perfect Lamb became the ultimate sacrifice.*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

*Jesus made what we call "the ultimate sacrifice"—giving His life for others. Jesus said that a man has no greater love than if he lays down his life for his friend. He was not simply willing to lay down His life for us in the moment, as with a soldier on the battlefield. He planned to lay down His life for us, never planning for any other outcome. Use an illustration that ties into this idea, possibly one in which a victory in battle was likely, but the one who planned the battle knew that the cost of victory would be his own life.*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]