

Eid al-Adha

When Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, ends Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al-Adha. In 2023, it will begin on June 28. This is the “holiday of the sacrifice” and it remembers the story of Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his son Issac if God willed it.

All Muslims take part in the celebration, although people returning from Hajj will be especially honored as new “hajji,” – a title given to those who have returned from the pilgrimage. A sheep or similar animal is usually slaughtered and shared as a central part of the feast. In some places

in the Middle East those who have recently returned from Mecca will put handprints from the blood of the slaughtered beast on the walls of their homes to protect from evil.

Eid al-Adha is an even more important festival than Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan. In some countries, celebrations last up to four days. Meat from the feast is divided to share with family, friends and those in need, and Muslims celebrate together, wearing new clothes and exchanging gifts.

“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me...”

HEBREWS 10:5

How can we pray?

Pray for Muslims returning from Hajj as they reflect on their experience to be open to the move of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Pray for Muslims celebrating Eid al-Adha to hear the story of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Pray for Christians in Muslim countries celebrating Eid to have the opportunity to celebrate with their neighbours and share the love of Christ.