

## INI-SDG

In the Name of Jesus – To God Alone the Glory

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*4.9.2009 Maundy Thursday – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA – Pastor N. Radichel*

Behold, the grace and peace we have through the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.

Our text for this evening is a single verse taken from the Scripture reading read a moment ago from the Gospel of Mark chapter 14, verse 24.

**And (Jesus) said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many."**

This verse is the basis for our short meditation this evening. When you think of a covenant, what do you think about? It certainly isn't a word we use every day. But it is a word that our Heavenly Father uses throughout His Word to us over 300 times. Why? What does God mean by covenant? What is so special about it? For a very in depth look into how God describes His use of the word covenant with us, we need look no further than in the book to the...

**NIV Hebrews 8 – (follow along in the pew Bibles) page \_\_\_\_\_**

The book of Hebrews was written for the purpose of showing the Jews how Christ was the fulfillment of the old covenant. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, was not only the Jews, but mankind's high priest whose own blood would be shed and be sacrificed once and for all, for the sins of all people. It wasn't long ago when we studied these words from Jeremiah explaining again the purpose of God's Messianic covenant. As we read in chapter 8 verse 12 **"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."** This verse is really the essence of the new covenant. It was the new covenant God had planned in Christ. HOW this covenant was shown in Jesus as our great high priest follows in the next chapter in the book to the...

**NIV Hebrews 9 – (follow along in the pew Bibles) page \_\_\_\_\_**

And so we behold the "Lamb of God," Jesus Christ, "who takes away the sin of the world." Tomorrow we celebrate that one day in which sin was atoned and paid for on that cross of Jesus. For it was through that perfect death of God's one and only Son which declared the sinful world, "not guilty" in the eyes of God. But why does Hebrews 9:28 and our brief text from Mark 14:28 speak about Jesus blood being shed for "many?" The Greek word there clarifies that this "many" simply refers to "multitudes" – or in other words, an enormous amount of people... thankfully of whom you and I are included. Therefore, fellow BLOOD BOUGHT SOULS of Christ, Jesus said to His disciples in:

**Mark 14:24 "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many."**

Understand this. Your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to satisfy the payment of your unfathomable debt you had against God's first covenant law in which we all have broken. But God's new covenant through the blood of Christ is what continues to remind us and strengthen us through the Gospel message of forgiveness in the spotless Lamb of God. When the like minded believers here at St. Stephen join together as sinners to participate in the Lord's Supper, we understand that we have broken the old covenant with our "many" (that is, enormous amount of) sins. But through Christ's words we by faith know that we really and truly partake in the body and blood of our Lord and His new covenant in a special and miraculous way along with the bread and wine. Who wouldn't want this great comfort and privilege on a regular basis? For it is view of this mercy and forgiveness in Christ we out of thankfulness desire to put away our sins only because of the Holy Spirit and this comfort He creates in our souls. We hope and pray that in this forgiveness we have in Christ we may continue to stand for Him and glorify God with our lives, because He first glorified our lives... with His life and death. We celebrate Maundy Thursday this evening because of what Christ revealed to all of His disciples, the joy, comfort, and confidence to...

**LIVE IN THE BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT. AMEN!**

*The peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard and keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*