Our scripture comes from Mark 14:22-24. While you’re finding that, A four-year-old was in church when the juice and bread were passed out for Communion. As each plate passed, he reached up, but his mother told him that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion. Later, the church passed around the offering plates. When it came to him, he held onto his dollar. His mother motioned for him to put it in, but he refused. Finally she leaned over and told him to put in his dollar. Shaking his head, he said, “If I ain’t eating, I ain’t paying.”

**Mark 14:22-24 22And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it,* and gave *it* to them and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 23Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. 24And He said to them, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.**

 What does Communion mean to you? Too often, we do things in the church because we’ve always done that thing in this church. We do Communion because it appears in the bulletin on the first Sunday of each new quarter. We know what Communion is – it’s the Lord’s Supper – it’s a time of remembrance – it’s juice and bread and prayer. But what does Communion mean to you?

 The Lord’s supper – Communion – means so many things that we could be here all day talking about what it means. I’ll suggest this morning that we remember five things: Jesus Sacrifice, Jesus New Covenant, our New Life in Him, our Christian Fellowship, and our charge to spread the Gospel. In the scripture this morning, Jesus tells us firsthand what Communion means. The bread is His body, the cup is His blood. We remember He died so we might live. 2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. He who knew no sin took our sin so we might stand in righteousness before God. This is His atonement that we must remember.

 He brought a New Covenant. The Law, which no one could keep, only highlighted how desperately sinful we are and was not the way to salvation. Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Jesus provides the only way – John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. It’s only through our faith in His work on the Cross that we’re saved. We must remember His New Covenant – literally, the New Contract we enter into with Him when we profess our Faith in Jesus.

 Through this New Covenant, we find new life. Through repentance and Faith in Jesus, we obtain Eternal Life. Eternal Life is not something we are waiting on. The moment we placed our Faith in Jesus, we are the recipients of Eternal Life. 1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. It doesn’t say – will have Eternal Life. It says you who believe HAVE eternal life. Present tense. At this time of Communion, we repent in our hearts of anything separating us from God. We humble ourselves before the throne of Grace and ask forgiveness. We know that we approach the throne of God with confidence, not borne of our work, but that of Jesus. We remember today our New Life, through the New Covenant, made possible by the atoning Death of Jesus.

 We live this new life in Fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Life in Christ is not meant to be lived alone. Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Don’t let this be lost on us this morning. The people chose to continue steadfastly. They showed up! They made a choice to be part of the fellowship. They continued steadfastly – not in what they wanted, not in what they liked, not in what they agreed with, but in the Biblical Truth that was the apostles doctrine. Today, remember our fellowship, celebrating our new life in Christ, made possible through the new Covenant, because of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ that paid the full price for our sin.

 Finally, remember our charge to spread the Gospel. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. God doesn’t want any to perish. We are Christ’s disciples. At this time, we examine ourselves and seek to understand how we are fulfilling the Great Commission as a body of Christ. What do non-believers see when they look at us? Do they see Jesus in us?

 Today, as we partake of this table, remembering that we are disciples with a charge to take the Gospel to the world. We are the church – individuals making a choice to fellowship in a Biblical, spirit filled manner. We are living a New Life in Jesus. We are under a New Covenant with Him. In all of this, we remember His atoning Death so we might live, and we humbly bow to His Will for the life He has given us. At this table, we find cups representing His Blood and bread representing His Body – may He find in us Christian’s representing His Gospel and His Love taking His message to a lost and hurting world.