- Are you saved?
- What does it mean to be saved?

- Salvation is a great mystery must be cautious in over rationalizing this mystery.
- In NT Christ is called the "ransom" or "redemption"
- For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)
- Greek is "*lytrosis*": means a money paid to give freedom to a slave or to save someone sentenced to death.
- Why is Christ seen as a ransom?
  - Because we have fallen into slavery of sin and death, we need to be freed, like a slave or prisoner.
  - Christ is called a "ransom" for our freedom.

- ➡ In Early Church people tried to rationalize and raised the question, To whom did Christ pay this ransom?
- What is your view?
- Some said the devil including Origen.
- St. Gregory the Theologian rebuked Origen (2nd Century) for this view.
  - "If the great and most glorious blood of God the high priest and sacrifice is given as the price of redemption to the evil one, then how grievous is this! The brigand receives not only the price of the ransom from God but God himself!
- God paying the Devil with Himself???
  This idea is not rational and seems a bit silly.

- Gregory of Nyssa says redemption was a "deception" and a "bargain with the devil." Christ offers the devil His very own flesh, "concealing" the divinity within it. The devil rushes on this bait, swallows the "book, Christ's divinity, along with it, and perishes."
- Some western theologians say the ransom was paid to God the Father saying that the Father was angry because of the fall of man and **needed a payment** to satisfy divine justice.
- God pays Himself with Himself because of anger? Does a payment to appease God's anger make sense?
- A legalistic view reflecting the scholastic theology in West.

- Orthodox East never accepted this view and reacted against it in 12th century, and in a local council in Constantinople formally condemned this thinking.
- They taught: "Christ voluntarily offered Himself as a sacrifice in His humanity and accepted the sacrifice as God with the Father and the Spirit...
- The God-man of the Word offered redemptive sacrifice to the Father, to himself as God, and to the Holy Spirit,
- through whom the human person is called from non-being, into being, whom he has offended in breaking the commandment
- and with whom reconciliation has been effected through Christ's sufferings."

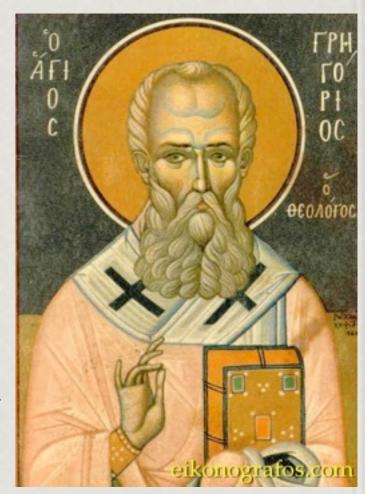
- In the Liturgy we say Christ is the One who both offers and accepts the sacrifice.
- St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "I see the Child offering a lawful sacrifice on earth, yet I also see him receiving the sacrifice from all the heavens...
- He is the gifts, the High Priest, the altar, the purifier, he is the
   Offerer and he is the Offered as a sacrifice for the world.
- ♣ He is the true fire, he is consummation, He is the Tree of life and knowledge, He is the sword of the Spirit, He is the Pastor and the priest, He is the Law and the One who fulfills the Law."

- Many Church Fathers avoid the topic of ransom in literal sense and take redemption to mean the reconciliation of the human race with God. The manifestation of God's love for humanity.
- Saint John says, For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)
- It's **not anger but love** that lives behind sacrificial death of Christ. He becomes man and suffers out of His **love for us**, so we can now become reconciled with Him, united, theosis.

- St Symeon the New Theologian put it this way,
- Christ was made incarnate.. He became a servant, taking the form of a servant and raised us servants of sin to the dignity of masters and made us lord and master over the devil who had before been our tyrant...
- In being crucified he became the curse and destroyed all the power and energy of the enemy who had power over us through death and sin.
- This is the most common theme, Christ's victory over death by death.
- Our redemption is about a renewal of human race not a payment like a fine for a parking ticket.

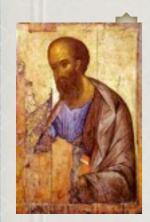
- Who is redeemed?
  - All who **believe** ("I believe") in Him are **redeemed**. ""that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).
- Our **faith** makes us children of God.
- ❖ Through faith, Baptism, and life in the Church we become heirs with Christ of the Kingdom of God, freed from consequences of the fall, death, being raised together with Christ, becoming partakers of eternal life.
- Purpose of mankind is realized in our union with God, deification, Theosis, for eternal life.

- The Father accepts the sacrifice, not because He demanded it or because He felt any need for it, but on account of divine economy:
- Because humanity must be sanctified by the Humanity of God, that He might deliver us Himself, and overcome the tyrant, and draw us to Himself by the mediation of His Son, who also arranged this to the honor of the Father, Whom it is manifest that He obeys and all things." (St. Gregory the Theologian)



- How does He save us? How are we redeemed? How are we freed?
- Through His death He renews humanity imparting the ability to face death without fear with hope of eternal life through the resurrection which will occur after death.
- Through **Baptism & Chrismation** we are joined with Him, receive the **Holy Spirit**, and become His adopted **children**.

- There is no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes us free from law of sin and death.
- ➡ What the Law of Moses could not do, God did by sending His own Son in human flesh: So the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.



Paul: ...that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Rom 8:4-5)

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit, to be "spiritually minded"?

- This is key to understand repentance.
- Repentance we gain in confession is not about breaking the law but love and reconciliation, about opening our hearts to receive the Spirit, to change our mind, our way of being from one focused on this world to one lived in the spirit loving God.
- What is meant by being carnally minded?
- So what then is being spiritually minded?
  - When we chose to be liberated by the Holy Spirit, chose to become spiritual, freeing our mind from a carnal orientation, allowing Spirit to guide us in the way of virtue and goodness, His Way, because we love Him.

Paul adds to this saying we must die to the law:

For I through the law died to the law that I might live to

God. (Gal 2:19)

- How do we die to the law?
  - Recognizing it is holy, just and good; we deserve its consequences, death;
  - Voluntary die to law through our death with Christ.
  - Law is not sufficient but is fulfilled in Christ Himself.
- I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but
  Christ lives in me; (Gal 2:20)
  - Means our sins and passions voluntarily crucified through Baptism and Confession. We have made the desires of flesh secondary to the Spirit.

- and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)
- A life lived **"by faith"** instead of living **"in the flesh"** no longer driven by the bodily passions and desires of this world.
- This life involves the **whole person**. Christianity is all about a **way of life** in Christ.
- Redemption (justification) involves a complete union with Christ, Theosis, to live "In Him" and "by faith".
- Tt is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.



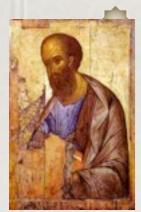
And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal 5:24-25)

♣ It will profit you to reflect on what it means to "have crucified in the flesh" and to seek how to "walk in the Spirit."

- With faith what are we able to do?
- Crucify our flesh with afflictions and lusts. How?
  - By enduring all trails and tribulations with thanks and doing what is contrary to our lusts:
    - Remember how Jesus endured on the Cross and prayed for his tormentors. In this way we can crucify our anger.
    - When anger rises do not harm
  - Must learn to be obedient to all His teachings.
  - Follow Christ & not example of Adam.

## General Salvation

- Jesus Christ kindled **love and faith** in the hearts of His disciples that they "*left everything*" and followed Him
- In His voluntary death on the Cross, there is "surpassing the understanding" the heights of **love** of Christ.



...Christ died for the **ungodly**. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom

#### For All?

- Was His Sacrifice for us all?
  - He offered Himself as a sacrifice for salvation of all.
  - But?
  - This only benefits those who of their own free will "have fellowship in His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." (Philipp. 3:10)
- How do we have fellowship in His sufferings and death?
  - Thru faith, through Sacraments, through following His commandments, through asceticism seeking to always be united with Him.

## Redemption - The Cross

- We do not view Christ's self sacrifice on Cross as a Payment, like paying a fine or fulfilling a contract to pay for our guilt some say we received from Adam.
- ♣ It is not like a substitution where He died for our personal sins instead of us.
  - We are accountable for our own sinfulness. Why?
- ➡ His death is a sacrifice of love and obedience that is essential for the Resurrection, for victory over death in Human flesh. This involves a life in Christ.
- This way of life **frees** all mankind from bondage to sin and **death** with hope of resurrection and eternal life.

- So what is question we must ask ourselves if we want to be saved?
  - What does it mean to live a life "In Christ" to "walk in the Spirit"?

# Synergia: Theosis demands our cooperation

# Synergia

- Most important concept Your salvation depends on a clear understanding of this.
- Christianity is not a passive path.
   Involves spiritual warfare, preparing for battle.

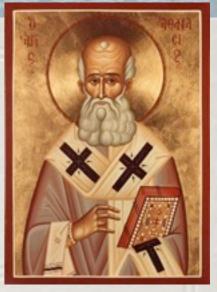
#### General vs Personal Salvation

- Two truths about salvation:
  - 1. General 2. Personal
- Cross is about salvation in general.
  Christ offered Himself to claim victory over death, so all peoples have possibility to be saved and renewed..
- BUT, what?
  - Personal salvation depends on each individual proper use of free-will.

#### General vs Personal Salvation

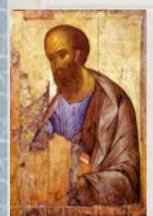
- Personal made possible by the General.
  - By sacrifice on Cross all are **liberated** from death. We know there is **life after death** <u>if</u> we **follow** Christ.
  - Must in **humility** join with Him & **cooperate** to **perfect ourselves** to become **united** with Him in eternal life.

## General Salvation



- St. Athanasius on the General salvation: "
  The Word perceived that corruption could not be gotten rid of any other way than through death; yet He Himself...being immortal... was such as could not die.
- For this reason... He assumed a body capable of death, in order that it... remaining incorruptible through His indwelling, might thereafter put an end to corruption for all others as well, by the Grace of the Resurrection.
- It was by surrendering to death, the body which he had taken, as an offering and sacrifice, free from every stain, that he forthwith abolished death for his human brother by the offering of an equivalent." (On the Incarnation, pp. 34-35).

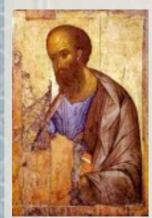
## Personal Salvation



The **personal Salvation** is expressed by Paul: God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not** imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation...

- we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
- Personal salvation uses the same terminology as the salvation of the world: justification, redemption, reconciliation. Apostles have in mind those who believe in Christ and have received Holy Baptism & Chrismation.

# Begin with Baptism



"He (Christ) according to His mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration (in Baptism), and renewing of the Holy Spirit... that being justified by His Grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:5-7)

Baptism is seen as a **personal** resurrection in Christ.

Called: new birth, adoption, sanctification.

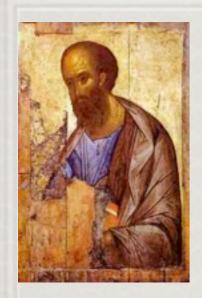


#### Personal Salvation

- ➡ Is it proper to say we must earn our way to salvation?
  - No. We cannot earn salvation by our own efforts.

    Being good person not sufficient.
- We must first have **faith** and receive divine **grace**.
  - Then, joined with Christ through Baptism and Chrismation, we must be willing to **cooperate** with Grace to do good works.
- This requires **preparation**, **attention** & **participation** in sacramental life of Church.

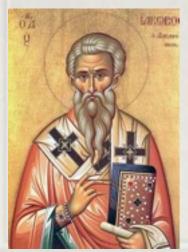
## Faith and Works



Scripture says we are **saved by faith** and must **work out our own salvation**.

"Ye are saved through faith, and that not of yourself: it is the gift of God." (Eph 2:8)

\* "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil 2:12)



Faith if it has not works is dead (James 2-14-20)

How do we reconcile these statements?

All are true. Personal salvation involves both.

## Not "Faith Alone"



Much of the controversy over this issue of faith and works stems from a misinterpretation of Paul's statement, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law". (Rom 3:28)

What Paul was referring to was Jewish law. He was defending the Gentiles agains Jews who insisted on circumcision under the Law.

- His point is man cannot make himself righteous simply by following the law. Law is fulfilled when we develop deep **faith** and **live by the Spirit**.
- Faith must also be **nurtured** which requires our efforts.

## Faith and Works

- Scripture also says,

  "Salvation involves acquiring eternal life in God, in the kingdom of Heaven. "But nothing unclean can enter the Kingdom of God" (cf. Eph 5:5, Rev 21:27)
- God is light and we must become sons of Light.

  Entrance requires purity of soul, garment of

  "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb 12:14)
- Scripture shows salvation involves more than being justified or acquitted for any offenses committed against God. Not legal type of issue, its a relationship.
- Our personal purification is a requirement and we must acquire Grace of Holy Spirit.

#### Purification

- Scripture tells us by **purification** we come to know the personal God and receive His grace.
  - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...purify your hearts... (James 4:8)
  - Those with pure heart will see God (Mt. 5:8).
- How are we purified?
  - Taming of our passions: carnal instincts, self-centered desires.
  - Daily Ascetic practices such as prayer and fasting
  - Regular participation in **Sacraments**.
  - Ongoing Repentance

## Purification

- Even with Baptism we will sin. Are weak.
- Baptism **opens the door** to the pathway for us to participate in the **sacramental life** of the Church.
- ➡ It's the beginning of Life in Christ. But what must we do?
  - We must continue to use our free will wisely.
  - Our will must follow His will
  - This is Synergia

#### Faith and Works

- By the Christ Event, Son of God came to:
  - a. Open path for personal salvation of all.
  - b. Direct our hearts to search and thirst for Kingdom of God and to give us help and power on this path to acquire **personal** spiritual purity and holiness.
- Pathway given totally by Christ General Salvation;
- Personal Salvation depends on our cooperation through grace in the Holy Spirit. Synergia
- Following Him, made in His Image, we become in His Likeness. This is **life in Spirit**.

# Synergia

Questions?

#### Resurrection

5. And He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures

### Rose on the Third Day

#### \* "And He rose"

Mary came seeking Him but the tomb was found to be empty. "They have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid him. (John 20:13).

The angels told her not to fear, that He had risen and said, "Go tell His disciples that He is risen." (Matt 28:7)



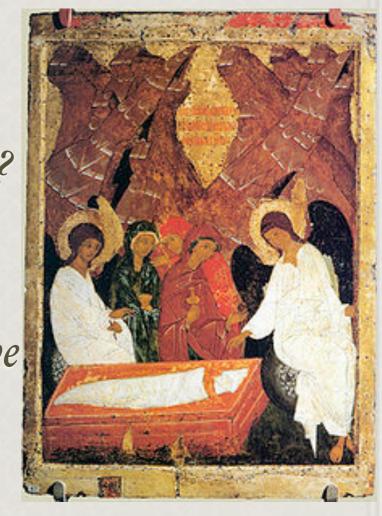
Jesus met up with His disciples. "and behold Jesus met them, saying, All hail! and they came and took hold of His feet. (Matt 28:9)

### Rose on the Third Day

- Why "on the Third Day"?
  - To convince all unbelievers, especially the Jews, that He was indeed dead. Common belief that no one was really dead until three days had passed.
  - Jesus had told His disciples He would rise on 3rd day.
  - When they asked Pilate to set a guard in front of the tomb they said, "Sir remember how that impostor said while He was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore order the sepulcher to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal Him away, and tell the people, "He has risen from the dead," and the last fraud will be worse than the first." (Matt 27:63-64)

## Rose on the Third Day

- Luke writes: "Was early on third day that the women went to the tomb found it empty and told by two angels in dazzling attire,
- "Why do you seek the living among the dead?
- Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the **third day** arise."
- And they remembered His words." (Luke 24:5-8)



- What did Jesus do after the He rose?
- Showed himself to the Apostles for **forty days**. During this time He **taught them the mysteries** of the Kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)



## According to Scriptures

- Why "According to the Scriptures"?
  - The Resurrection was fulfillment of prophecy of both OT and Jesus.
  - Shows the consistency of Bible in pointing to Christ and His Resurrection.
  - Both Peter and Paul point this out in Acts.

## According to Scripture

- These words come from Scripture:
  Saint Paul: For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, (I COIT 15: 3-4)
- St. Cyril: "He who in dishonor wore patiently the crown of thorns, even He arose, and crowned himself with the diadem of His victory over death." This too is foretold in the Scriptures

### Action of Disciples

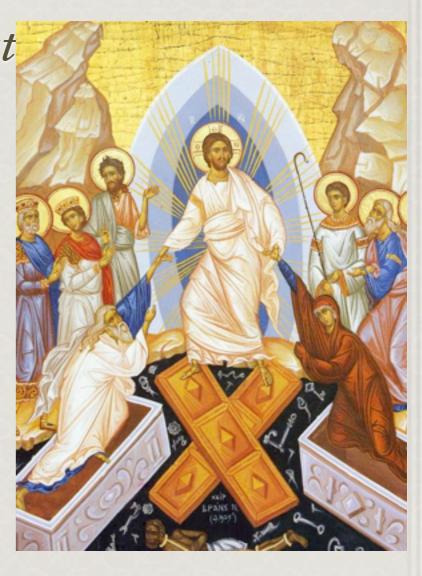
- We can see realty of His Resurrection in actions of His disciples. What did they do?
- After He rose Jesus spent time with them preparing them for work of establishing His Church.
- After this they **no longer feared death**, **imprisonment or torture** and, in fact, all met death at hands of a persecutor except John.
- The Resurrection and their actions are the first proof that His sufferings and death brought salvation.

#### Proof

- What was the state of Jesus after His death and before His Resurrection?
- Hymn of Church: In the grave as to the flesh, in hades with thy soul, as God, in paradise with the the thief, and on the throne wert thou, O Christ, together with the Father, and the Spirit, filling all things, Thyself uncircumscribed.
- He descended into Hades

#### Hades

- Christ descends into Hades to free those who believe. Is this in Scripture?
- "He (Jesus) was put to death in the flesh, but he was raised to life in the Spirit, in which also he went and preached to the disobedient spirits who were in prison in the days of Noah when God waited patiently while the ark was being built...For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead so that, although they have already been judged in the flesh like men, they might have life in the Spirit like God." (1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6)



#### Hades

- What is hades or hell?
- ♣ Hades is Greek meaning a place void of light. This is understood as a **spiritual prison**, the state of spirits which are separated from the sight of God's countenance, and from the light and blessedness it confers because of sin.
- Why did Jesus descend into hades?
  - To preach His **victory over death** and deliver the souls who with faith awaited His coming.
  - Who would these have been?

#### Resurrection

- Cross makes possible the **Resurrection**.

  By death of Christ on the Cross humankind attained redemption, meaning **death** is **defeated**.
- Through victory over death we gain eternal life and are shown path for our personal salvation.
- Resurrection is the object of Church's constant triumph, its unceasing rejoicing summit is Pascha. Our Sunday celebration.
- We must deal with all our doubts on this event.
- Foundation and crown of our Orthodox faith.

### Doubts?

- What are some thing the doubters say?
  - He died as a criminal in disgrace & Apostles fled
  - Apostles stole the body and lived a lie.
  - There were many eyewitnesses who proclaimed the truth even when severely tortured and then killed.
- Peter in Acts 2; "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs. . . ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. . . this Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses."

### Many Witnesses

- Night lit by full moon.
- Heavy stone had been rolled away.
- Testimonies from angels, Peter, John and Thomas. as well as other apostles.
- Some ran to sepulcher and saw burial clothes
- Others handled His hands and feet, and beheld the prints of the nails.

- Women were witnesses who took hold of His feet and witnessed the mighty earthquake. They also saw the burial clothes
- Spot marked today by Church of Holy Sepulcher built by St. Constantine.

### Many Witnesses

- \* "Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses. .." Luke 1:2
- That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled. .. "150bn 1:1
- ▶ "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:16
- How is it possible 11 men who forsook all, were beaten, jailed and even went so far as die for this truth could do it knowing it was a lie?

### Many Witnesses

- We also have historical accounts by Roman and Jewish historians of this time who report of this event.
- Professor Thomas Arnold, former chair of history at Oxford, and author of famous volumes, *History of Rome*, was skillfully educated in study of historical facts stated,
- "I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."



#### Why the Resurrection?





The purpose of His incarnation was to die on the Cross; abolishing thereby all that injured man and separated him from God... rising from the dead He gave eternal life to His creatures, we assert also that His resurrection in the body is also "the beginning of the restoration of man to the original grace", just as death was introduced to all by a single person, Adam, and so passed it to all of human nature, similarly the resurrection of the one Man, Christ, extends to all humanity." St Gregory of Nyssa.

## Pascha Hymn

- What is Hymn we sing on Pascha until His Ascension in our Church services?
  - Christ is risen from the dead! By His death He has conquered death, and to those in the tombs He has bestowed life eternal.
- The Resurrection is the Good News of our Christian faith. When we are certain about our own resurrection we have eternal hope and can withstand anything.
- This is why we must work to mature our faith. With this comes the peace we seek.

#### Pascha Service

- Experience this in our Pascha service
- Church is in total darkness, like darkness of grave.
- At midnight, Pascha candle lit at altar represents Christ the Light of the world.
- The Doors to altar swing open signifying the opening of the Christ's tomb and we sing,
  - Come, receive the light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead.
- Congregation then lights their candles from the priest's then lighting their neighbors until the whole Church is ablaze with light with light of the Resurrection proclaiming to the world that Christ is risen.



- Next the Priest reads the story of the Resurrection from the Gospel of St.Mark (16:1)
- We then begin singing the Paschal hymn, Christ is risen.
- At end of the service customary to take the light home carrying the word of the Good News to entire world.
- When we greet for the next forty days we begin saying "Christ is Risen" (Christos Anesti) and respond with "Truly He is Risen." (Alithos Anesti)

#### Pascha Service

- Liturgy concludes with the words for St John Chrysostom:
- \* "O death where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is risen and thou art overthrown. Christ is risen and the Angels rejoice. Christ is risen and freedom is given to life. Christ is risen and there is none dead in the tomb. For Christ is raised from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. To Him the glory and power from all Ages to Ages, Amen."

## Redemption

Questions?