**The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world**

**discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator**

**who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.** *Confession of 1967 (alt.)*

***Prayers of God’s Creation and People***

**THANKSGIVING**

***Offering*** *Psalm 24:1*

***Offertory Music:*** “Flute Piece” Thomas Thorley

***\*Doxology:*** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (verse 1)

106

***Closing Prayer***

***\*Hymn:*** “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” 144

**SENDING**

***\*Charge*** *From 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22*

***\*Benediction*** *2 Corinthians 13:13*

***\*Choral Benediction:***

***\*Dismissal***

***\*Postlude:***

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**Christ-the-King Fellowship**

**Spencer, NY**

**The Order of Worship for the Lord’s Day**

**The Third Sunday of the Resurrection**

**April 23, 2023**

**GATHERING**

***Welcome & Announcements***

***Prelude*** “Festival Prelude” Robert Lau

***Call to Worship*** *Mark 1:15; Psalm 119:126*

***\*Hymn:*** “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” 150

***Prayer of Confession*** (responsive)

Great God of life:

you give us the key to new life,

you open us up to a new way of being.

**Reform us, O God;**

**reveal our true nature.**

After the time of our disintegration;

after all the losses and closings;

after all the cutbacks and costs:

**You reassemble us according to the pattern of Christ:**

**the true Human and the true God.**

You reveal our destiny and our origin

as people made in your Image.

**What we used to be is gone forever,**

**and that is good!**

Our true nature is emerging in us!

**Who we will be is far greater than we can imagine!**

***Assurance of Pardon***

***\*Gloria:*** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!” (verse 4) 123

***\*The Peace***

Christ is in the midst of us.

**He is and ever shall be.**

May the grace and peace of Christ our God be with all of you.

**And also with you.**

*The people exchange words and signs of God’s peace.*

***\*Response:*** “Halle-, Halle-, Halleluia”

**Halle-, Halle-, Halleluia!**

**Halle-, Halle-, Halleluia!**

**Halle-, Halle-, Halleluia!**

**Halleluia!**

**Halleluia!**

**THE WORD**

***Prayer for Understanding***

***New Testament,*** Luke 24:13-35

***Psalm*** 34:1-10

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
   his praise shall continually be in my mouth.   
**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
   let the humble hear and be glad.**O magnify the Lord with me,  
   and let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
   and delivered me from all my fears.**Look to him, and be radiant;  
   so your faces shall never be ashamed.   
**This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,  
   and was saved from every trouble.**The angel of the Lord encamps  
   around those who fear him, and delivers them.   
**O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
   happy are those who take refuge in him.**O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
   for those who fear him have no want.   
**The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
   but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.**

***Hebrew Scriptures,*** Song of Songs 1:5-9

***Sermon,*** "Nevertheless, She Persisted"

***\*Affirmation of Faith***

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.

**Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.**

But God reveals love in Jesus Christ

by showing power in the form of a servant,

wisdom in the folly of the cross,

and goodness in receiving sinful people.