We Gather in the Name of the Risen Christ

PRELUDE *A Mighty Fortress* arr. Rowland-Raybold

+OPENING PRAYER

God of holy anticipation,
you have promised that you would return
at a time unknown to us.
Make us ready, so that when you return
we might be welcomed into your kingdom with open arms.
We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[Elizabeth Johnson, *Working Preacher*]

+OPENING HYMN *Stand Up and Bless the Lord* # 662

KIDS TIME

ANTHEM *Because He Lives* ensemble

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal, and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives. Because He lives I can face tomorrow; because He lives all fear is gone; because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives. How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives.

We Proclaim the Word and Respond in Faith

FIRST LESSON Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

PSALTER Psalm 78:1-7

I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might
and the wonders that he has done.
He established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

+ GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25:1-13

+ACCLAMATION *Gloria Patri* # 70

SERMON

+HYMN *Seek Ye First* # 405

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* #882

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER # 895

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS AND LIVES

Announcements & Stewardship Moment

Offertory	*Amazing Grace*	arr. Ann Buys
+Doxology		#94

We Go Forth to Serve God & Neighbor

+CLOSING HYMN	*Blessed Assurance*	# 369
+BENEDICTION		
+POSTLUDE	*Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*	arr. McDonald

Service of the Word

24th Sunday after Pentecost
8 November 2026

Monticello
United Methodist Church

