



North Liberty First

A United Methodist Community of Faith

February 22, 2026

Whether you are joining us in person or on-line,
know that we are here to journey along with you as we live into our mission: to follow and invite others to follow
Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Remembering our Baptism

*Call to Worship

Lent is not a time for being miserable, but for taking stock and resetting our aims for following Christ.
Loving God, in you we trust, let us never fool ourselves.

Lent is an opportunity for healthy repentance- repentance for our indifference in face of the permeating evil of the world, repentance for personal sins which we have glossed over as “mere foibles.”

According to your loving kindness, remember me, God of goodness and saving grace.

Lent is a time for joy; the exhilaration that comes- from defying temptations, from turning our face to the light that shines on the narrow path of Christ Jesus, from walking into adverse winds and enjoying small victories day by day.

Make me to know your ways, O God, teach me your paths, for you are the God of my salvation and my true happiness.

*Hymn **Amazing Grace (V 1, 3, 4)** **UMH 378**

*Hymn **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** **UMH 384**

First Lesson **Genesis 2:4-9 & 15-16** **CEB**

Word for Children

Second Lesson **Luke 8:4-10** **CEB**

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from one city after another, he spoke to them in a parable: ⁵“A farmer went out to scatter his seed. As he was scattering it, some fell on the path where it was crushed, and the birds in the sky came and ate it. ⁶Other seed fell on rock. As it grew, it dried up because it had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorns grew with the plants and choked them. ⁸Still other seed landed on good soil. When it grew, it produced one hundred times more grain than was scattered.” As he said this, he called out, “Everyone who has ears should pay attention.”

⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, “You have been given the mysteries of God’s kingdom, but these mysteries come to everyone else in parables so that *when they see, they can’t see, and when they hear, they can’t understand.*”

Message for the Lord’s Day **NL First Youth**

*Response To The Word **Gloria Patri** **UMH 70**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

*Hymn **Just As I Am Without One Plea (V 1, 3, 6)** **UMH 357**

Prayers of the People

After each petition, there will be a pause for silent prayer. After Pastor says "Lord in your mercy" ALL reply "hear our prayers."

Together, let us pray for the people of this congregation...
for those who are suffering...
for those who don't know where their next meal will come
from and those who are looking for shelter from the cold...
for our troops, police, EMTs, firefighters,
and others in harm's way...
for the earth you have given to our care...
for the Church universal; its leaders, its members,
and mission...
for peace and goodwill to all...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Mission And Ministry Moment

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter.

Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

UMH 664

***Benediction**

**Life is short and we have too little time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,**

**and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.**