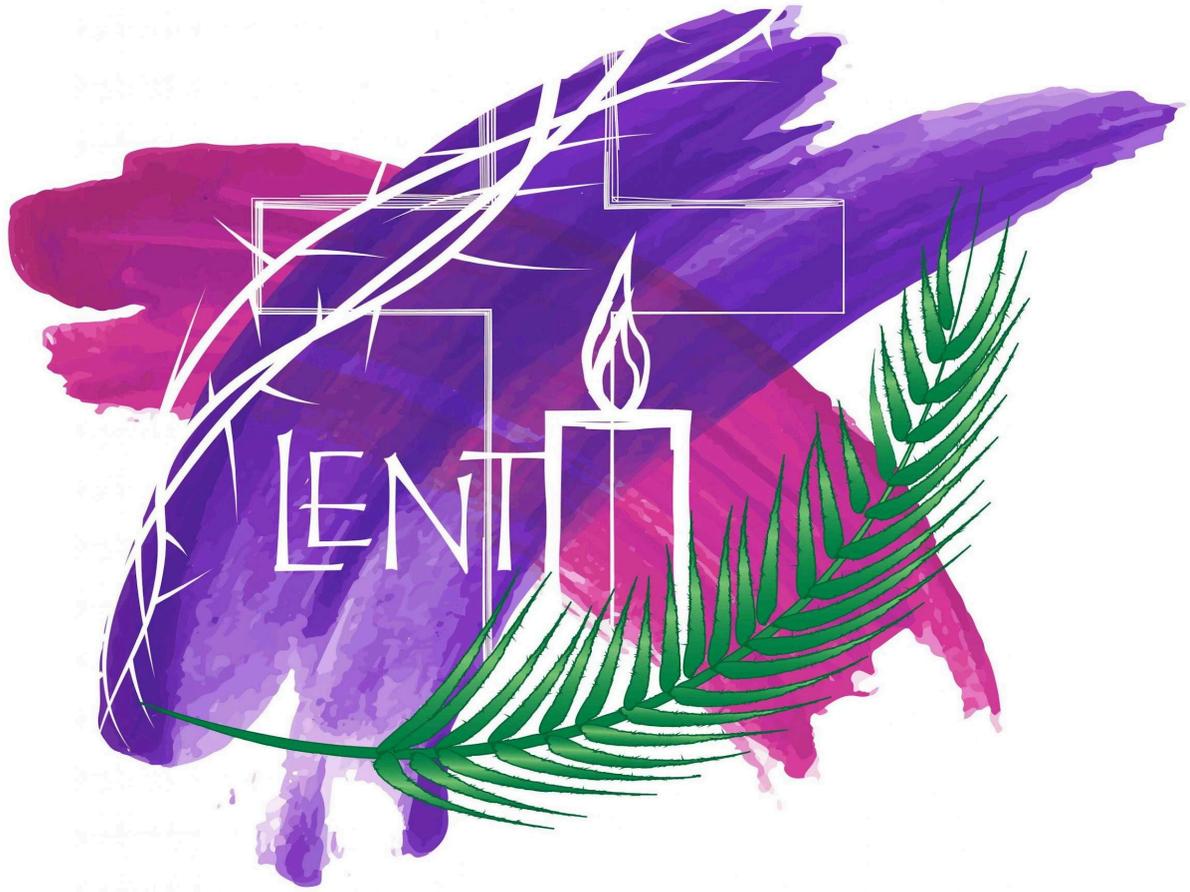


Potsdam United Methodist Church



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ March 22, 2026

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Guest Musician ~ Emily Ehrensperger

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

Just a Closer Walk With Thee ~ ITFWS #2158 vss. 1 & 2!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus.

P: **May we be called to the light of righteousness.**

L: As others witnessed this resurrection, they believed in Jesus.

P: **May we, who have heard, believe in the power of Jesus
to conquer our fears and doubts.**

L: Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.

All: Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. AMEN

*HYMN

Trust and Obey

UMH #467

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure
that things will not work out,
we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives.**

**We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us
that our most dreaded enemy – death –
can be overcome by faith.**

**Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance
and give us spirits of trust and hope. AMEN**

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

L: Though darkness and death appear all around, there is the comforting
healing light of God's love shining on you and in you.

Feel the warmth of the presence of God and let go of your fear, for
God is with you. **AMEN**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM

You Are the Christ, the Son of God! ~ Lloyd Larson

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Ezekiel 37:1–14

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 8:6–11

HYMN**Spirit of the Living God****UMH #393****READERS THEATER: Fifth Sunday in Lent**

(John 11:1-45)

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT THE CROSS: MARY, MARTHA & LAZARUS

SELECTED READING FROM THE GOSPELS**John 11:38-45 [KJV]****THE MESSAGE**

"Lord, by this time he stinketh"

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD***HYMN****This Is a Day of New Beginnings****UMH #383****THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)***Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts***OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS****OFFERTORY MUSIC****Guest Musician ~ Emily Ehrensperger*****THE DOXOLOGY****Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow****UMH #95***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**Praise him, all creatures here below;**Praise him above ye heavenly host;**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.****PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45)****All:** Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones.

We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems.

Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world.

May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life — abundant, eternal, and holy — is possible in you.

In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD***HYMN****I'm Gonna' Live So God Can Use Me****TFWS #2153, vss. 1 & 4*****THE BENEDICTION****L:** Lord, unbind us from our fears and doubts!

Beloveds, the journey does not end here...

... as you travel God's redemption road, go in the blessing of God who persistently breathes new life into dry and weary places, watching for resurrection to happen when you least expect it. **AMEN***Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.***POSTLUDE****Guest Musician ~ Emily Ehrensperger***Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus Wept

based on John 11:35 by Rev. Timothy Haut

"Lazarus," he cries,
"Come out!"

The voice echoes in the silence,
Spilled like shards of stone
Upon the hard, unfeeling earth.

This is the place
Of broken hearts and stolen dreams,
The place where hope cannot reach.

But love climbs the ragged hill,
Plows the barren soil

Where the bones are buried,
Fists the sullen air,
And cries, cries
Like a wounded child
In a world of countless deaths.

These are love's tears
Which work the miracle--

The helpless, holy things
That fall like rain

Upon the lifeless ground,
So that something green
May rise.

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2011, 2017, 2020 & 2026

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES



- + **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- + **Coffee & Jesus [A Lenten Study]:** Our last gathering for this study will be **Wednesday, March 25th at 10:00 am.**
- + **Coffee & Jesus:** will continue after Easter with a study based on *The Chosen*. **Wednesdays at 10:00 am.**
Be looking for a start date to be announced shortly!

- **March Mission:** Bread for the Neighborhood Center.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** March 22nd.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, March 23rd, at 10:30am.
- **Palm Sunday:** March 29th.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** April 2nd, 7pm.
- **Good Friday:** April 3rd, Self Directed Meditation and Reflection; the church will be open, and Pastor Heidi will be available 12pm - 3pm.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** Usually the 1st Thursday of each month, 2-4pm at the Parsonage. The next meeting is TBD.
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner

Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish

Counters

Readers

March 22: Carrie Livernoise, Robin Howard

March 22: Sharon H., Nancy M., Tom O.

March 29: Tom Ortmeier, Christa Carroll

March 29: Collen Gondo

Greeters/Ushers

Fellowship Time Hosts

March 22: Norm Gardner

April 5: Robin Howard & Judy Haer

March 29: Nancy Matthews

May 3: Carol Willmert

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Guest Musician ~ Emily Ehrensperger

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - <https://tinyurl.com>