

OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE

For the Week of Laetare, Lent 4 (March 14–20, 2021)

Use as much as you are able, or as your family size/ages dictate.

Bible Stories for the Home (especially for children)

Day	Bible Story
Monday	Peter's Catch of Fish
Tuesday	Stilling the Storm, Healing the Paralytic
Wednesday	Daughter of Jairus
Thursday	The Parable of the Sower
Friday	The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat
Saturday	The Sermon on the Mount

Bible Reading For the Week (especially for adults)

Day	First Reading	Second Reading
Monday	Luke 23:26–56	Deuteronomy 9:1–29
Tuesday	Matthew 26:1–35	Deuteronomy 10:1–22
Wednesday	Matthew 26:36–75	Deuteronomy 11:1–32
Thursday	Matthew 27:1–38	Deuteronomy 28:1–14
Friday	Matthew 27:39–66	Deuteronomy 28:15–68
Saturday	Mark 14:1–31	Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Psalm For This Week: Psalm 125

Devotions From Laache's Book of Family Prayer (for age 18 & up)

Devotions #148–155 (pp. 235–247)

In Our Prayers at Christ Lutheran:

For those who struggle with cancer and other illness. For Sarah Spike, who has the call to serve as our Kindergarten teacher. For mothers, for those who struggle with guilt, and for those who currently serve our country, especially those overseas.

Hymn Verses For This Week (ELH #266 v. 1):

O Bread of Life from heaven
To weary pilgrims given
O Manna from above!
The souls that hunger, feed Thou,
The hearts that seek Thee lead Thou
With Thy most sweet and tender love.

SMALL CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK OF LENT 4

(RELATED TO THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY)

*Say this as part of your personal or family devotions.
Use these words to form prayers both thanking God and asking for His grace.*

The Office of the Keys

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is the special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth: to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners, but to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

The evangelist writes, John 20:22–23: "Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven them; and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' "

What is this command that Christ has given His Church?

Christ has given His Church the command to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments.

What special authority does Christ include in this command?

In this command Christ includes the special authority to forgive and not to forgive sins, thus opening or closing heaven (Office of the Keys).

(Questions 300 & 301 from the 2001 ELS Catechism)