

Advent, Tuesday of 1st week

Reading: Lk.1,8-17

V.9 *“He was chosen by lot ... to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.”*

The hand of the Lord was at work in Zechariah’s life, though in a background kind of way. As a priest the lot was customarily used to determine who was to be on duty in the temple “to serve as priest before God”. The lot fell, as the Lord willed it, on Zechariah. And he was thereby in the place of receiving the appearance and the message of the angel. This occurred when Zechariah was serving God by burning incense on the altar, which he was doing faithfully and readily.

Zechariah was ready to go with the result the lot determined, taking that result to indicate the will of God to assign to him this task.

We take our place promisingly in the coming of our Lord as we ready ourselves to do faithfully the task which God assigns to us. For it is certain, in doing this, that the hand of the Lord is at work.