

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Advent, Sunday of 4<sup>th</sup> week

Reading: Lk.1,67-79

V.72 *“to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant.”*

In order to comprehend the significance of what is coming, the birth and life of Jesus Christ, one must not let one's expectations develop freely but must root them in that which sheds light on it: the events and words, embedded in the history of God's people, that speak of it.

The event referred to in Zechariah's song of praise is one that goes back to the beginnings of Israel – God's promise to Abraham that he will become a great nation and that through him, that is, his offspring, all nations shall be blessed (Gen.12,2; 15,5) And behind this promise there is the one made after the Fall to the woman that her offspring will crush the enemy's head (Gen.3,15; the enemy being what subjected us to sin and death, the loss of paradise).

*“to remember his holy covenant”* is a way of saying that Jesus is Abraham's descendant through whom God will bless *“all peoples on earth”* (Gen.12,3)

What does this mean for our expectations of the coming of Jesus? That in him we shall learn and know that and how God is for us in mercy, love and faithfulness.

*“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”* (Rom.8)