

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, *Abba*, "Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are as nothing compared with the glory
to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord
but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself would be set free
from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom
of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning
in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.