

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(8:14-23)

All 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 have received a spirit of adoption.  
When we cry, "Abba! Father!"  
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God,  
and if children, then heirs,  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ  
-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.  
I consider that the sufferings of this present time  
are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.  
For the creation waits with eager longing  
for the revealing of the children of God;  
for the creation was subjected to futility,  
not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,  
in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay  
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.  
We know that the whole creation  
has been groaning in labour pains until now;  
and not only the creation, but we ourselves,  
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,  
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,  
the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.