

## Reading

Romans 8:14–23

*We wait for our bodies to be set free.*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a Son of God.

The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves  
bringing fear into your lives again;

it is the spirit of sons,

and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!'

The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness  
that we are children of God.

And if we are children we are heirs as well:

heirs of God and coheirs with Christ,

sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

I think that what we suffer in this life

can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed,  
which is waiting for us.

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons.

It was not for any fault on the part of creation

that it was made unable to attain its purpose,

it was made so by God;

but creation still retains the hope of being freed,

like us, from its slavery to decadence,

to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know,

has been groaning in one great act of giving birth;

and not only creation,

but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit,

we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.