

**October 15, 2017**  
**A Harvest Sermon Series: Let Us Pray**



**First Reading ~ *1 Chronicles 4:9-10***

Jabez – that is “Pain” – was held in higher esteem than all his siblings. His mother named him “Pain”, saying, ‘Because I bore him in such pain.’ Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh that you would bless me indeed, enlarge my territory, and that your hand might be with me and guide me, and that you would deliver me from evil, that I may not cause pain!’ And God granted what he asked.

**Second Reading ~ *from a Pilgrim’s Prayer by Thomas Merton***

My Holy God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen