



I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives

Text: Johann Joachim Möller (1659-1733)

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625-1673)

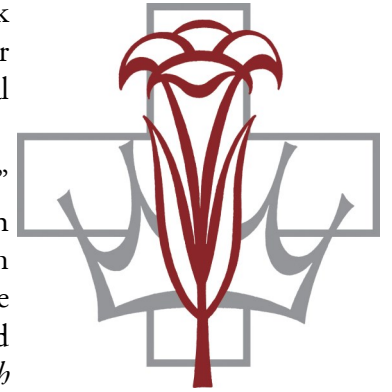
For the Christian, there are countless benefits that come from the resurrection of Jesus. The ones that come to mind the quickest are joy, our own resurrection, and things like this. But for our life in a troubled world, one we don't think of as readily is contentment. "I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives" speaks to us of the contentment that we as Christians have. This is not the contentment of worldly pleasures, but the contentment that everything that troubles us here is temporary, and what is eternal is the bliss of heaven and eternal life with Christ.

This hymn was written by Johann Joachim Möller. Möller was born April 24, 1659 in Sommerfeld, near Berlin. He studied theology and philosophy at the universities in Frankfurt an der Oder and Leipzig. In 1689 he was called to Krosno Odrzańskie, Poland to be the assistant to the town Superintendent. In 1729 he lost his sight due to an illness, but continued his work there. In addition to his duties as the assistant, he served as Pastor of the Lutheran church there.



The composer of the tune, Johann Rudolph Ahle, was born December 24, 1625 in Mühlhausen, Thuringia. He went to the university at Erfurt to study theology, but he was also a gifted musician. During his studies he was appointed Kantor of the St. Andreas Church in Erfurt, and also became director of the city's music school. As a

composer, the bulk of his work consisted of choral works written for Sundays, festivals, and other special days in the Church Year.



"I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives" has a wonderful double meaning, both of which are perfect for the Christian life and the Easter Season. The repeated refrain at the beginning and end of each stanza is, in German is *Ich habe genug*, better translated as "it is enough" or "I have enough." If we think in terms of Jesus' work of atonement on the cross, we can rejoice in this statement: "It is enough!" Jesus' perfect obedience throughout His life and His self-offering of perfect Blood on the cross is enough; the Father has accepted the payment, and all our debt is paid! We sing this very clearly in stanza one: "He has fulfilled the Law of God for me, God's wrath He has appeased." Because of this we can sing stanza two: ("He bowed His head when on the cross He died with cried of agony. Now" death is brought into subjection for me by Jesus' resurrection." What Jesus has done on our behalf truly is enough! Because of this, the Christian can sing, "*Ich habe genug*," "I have enough and I am saved. There is nothing else I need!"

Stanza three moves into what this means. Since this life and its woes are temporary, we can look to the resurrection as its "cheering rays beam blessings forth for all," which are "sweet comfort, hope, and peace." Now we have everlasting exultation! Though this life will end and this body will die, stanza four places on our lips a reminder of the Nicene Creed as we "look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. We will be awakened from the dead, with glorified, perfected bodies. In this wonderful state we will be with Christ, our living Head. There in eternity we will, body and soul, rejoice forever. With this knowledge and sure confidence, even in the midst of life's difficulties we can say with boldness, "I am content! I have enough!"