

President's Piece for Peace

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MAY 2018

While there are so many reasons to claim the season of Easter as our favorite, among the many are the beautiful and theologically sound hymns; that has to be one of my greatest joys. The season itself is barely long enough to insert all of the marvelous poetry that has been handed to us over the years and even centuries. The Easter hymns do not sing forth a human sentiment like so many modern songs emanate. Easter hymns shout to the world a truth beyond human comprehension. A man who was dead is alive again. Not only that miracle, but His resurrection, is gifted to the believer so that we too will raise from the dead and live in bliss for eternity. Easter hymns teach a divine truth that makes us content in a very contentious life.

One of the hymns actually teaches us that very fact. The title is *I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives* (LSB 468). Being content is not an easy condition these days. When the newest, the best, the most powerful, best technology, etc. is always before our eyes and within our grasp, we seldom find ourselves content with what we have. My cell phone, often called a dinosaur, finally broke in so many functions I had to break down and purchase a new one. I was surprised at how many generations of new and improved editions of phones have come and gone since my last phone. I was content with what it did because it did what I needed it to do. Now I have a phone that does more than I can imagine, frequently informing me of how ignorant I am with technology. However, as long as it does for me what I need, I am content, even with a contentious phone.



The Easter message is one that brings contentment in the midst of a contentious life. The contention we face is not technology or not having the biggest, best and brightest gadgets. Our contention is with ourselves. It is with our Old Adam that constantly wants to be its own God, convince us of a self-accomplished path to Heaven, build our own defense mechanisms against the righteous wrath of God, and finally to do all we can to avoid death. The sad part is that the Old Adam doesn't act old. It is vibrant and active our entire life long.

Easter is the answer to this contention. Jesus Lives, says the hymn: *He has fulfilled the Law of God for me, God's wrath He has appeased. Since he in death could perish never, I also shall not die forever. I am content! I am content!* The contentious one has been defeated. His lies and accusations have been abated. He cannot have you, for Christ Jesus has claimed you in the death and resurrection of your baptism. With this we can be content.

This is good news, especially this time of year when nature is new and warmth rests upon us once again. We can be itchy about where we serve, the people we care for, the students we teach and the towns in which we live. We might be looking elsewhere, over the fence to see if there are greener pastures. If you are to serve another place and another people, God will determine that by leading you to accept a Call that He has sent.

The Easter season, spring time, warmth returning, is simply a time to be content. Content where you are and what you are doing because it is all guarded and blessed by the gift of life over death. Nothing can take that away from you. Heaven is not a place of discontent but of being content. That is why the Holy Supper is a place to be content. It is Heaven on earth, a foretaste of the Feast to come. God has us where we are for His sake and for the sake of those who are fed by His ministry through us. Because it is His ministry, His Means of Grace, we can be content. God bless you all with fruitful service and content lives.