

“Bekennen will ich seinen Namen” BWV 200

Bekennen will ich seinen Namen,
Er ist der Herr, er ist der Christ,
In welchem aller Völker Samen
Gesegnet und erlöset ist.
Kein Tod raubt mir die Zuversicht:
Der Herr ist meines Lebens Licht.

I will acknowledge his name;
He is the Lord, he is the Christ,¹
In whom the seed of all peoples
Is blessed and redeemed.
No death robs me of my confidence:
The Lord is the light of my life.

(transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)



Scan or go to <http://www.bachcantatatexts.org/BWV200> for an annotated translation

GENERAL NOTE: BWV 200 is Bach’s substantial musical reworking, in the 1740s, with new text, of the aria “Dein Kreuz, o Bräutigam meiner Seelen” from Gottfried Heinrich Stölzel’s passion oratorio *Ein Lämmlein geht und trägt die Schuld*, which was performed on Good Friday in 1734 at the Thomas Church in Leipzig.

¹“Christ” is typically used of Jesus as if it were a sort of last name, “Jesus Christ.” The phrase “he is the Christ,” however, has the very same meaning as “he is the messiah [of God]” or “he is the anointed one [of God].”