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Vita Laudanda: Essays in Memory of Ulrich S. Leopold

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BOOKS IN REVIEW

VITA LAUDANDA: ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF ULRICH S. LEUPOLD

ERICH R.W. SCHULTZ, Editor

Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 1976.

192 pages. \$3.50

Although one is at first somewhat overwhelmed with the seeming variety of the topics which the essays in this volume reflect, a cursory reading of the essays already reveals a central theme -- the worship experience of the church. Even the essays which do not focus specifically on worship and music fit into this schema. Granskou's "The Unity and Variety of the Gospel" (pp. 11-23) centres largely on confronting people with the Gospel. Although not specifically articulated, the implications for preaching are obvious. Himmelman's excellent essay on "Jesus' Eschatological Concern for Poor Folk" (pp. 73-83) touches the worship experience of the Church at the point of the Lord's Supper. And Riekert's treatment of "The Death Resurrection Motif" (pp. 59-71), which applies the analysis of Jung to the biblical narrative of the encounter of Nicodemus and Jesus, specifically makes reference to the phenomenon of worship.

Of particular interest to parish pastors are three essays which specifically focused on modern developments in worship forms. Reumann's essay on "Redaktionsgeschichte and Roamn Ordo: Some principles and problems in Pericope Reform" (pp. 25-58) represents a major contribution and should be of practical interest to pastors confronted with the challenge of using the new three year lectionary cycle. Of interest particularly to those who have been experimenting with the ILCW contemporary worship materials publications is the essay by Anders on "The Search for a New Song: Developments in Contemporary Hymnody in the American Lutheran Churches" (pp. 101-115). And pastors, who have experienced difficulty with some of the outdated language of the collects, will appreciate the simple, contemporary rendition of the complete set of collects for the church year proposed by Brown in his "Revision of the Collects: An Experiment" (pp. 117-135).

Finally, significant contributions to the study of worship are made by Kemp's essay on "The Polyphony of Life", Buszin's treatment on "Heinrich Schuetz" and Vajta's "The New Mass in Protestant Perspective".

Vita Laudanda (A Life Worthy of Praise) is in itself worthy of praise. Although a couple of the essays are somewhat oblique at times, the collection as a whole is worth procuring. Certainly those who knew and respected Ulrich Leupold will want to have the volume. The excellent biographical sketch of Leupold and the listing of books, articles and book reviews by him (260 entries) show him to have been a significant influence on the scene of Canadian Lutheranism.

NJT