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Studia Liturgica

An International Ecumenical Quarterly for Liturgical
Research and Renewal, Volume I, Number 1,
March 1962

One of the commendable expressions of the ecumenical spirit in our times is a liturgical renewal in many parts of Christendom. This is undoubtedly a matter of great importance. For in order to bring Christians of various traditions closer to each other, theological or doctrinal agreement, however indispensable it may be, is not in itself adequate. Christian Worship, an equally essential aspect of the Church's faith and life, also needs to be taken with full seriousness. The ecumenical movement is as much interested in the question of Faith and Order as in this liturgical renewal. But the latter has not so far had an international organ, and the *Studia Liturgica* is intended to fill this need.

Under the guidance of an able Editorial Board and a fully competent Editor, the journal brought out its first number in March 1962. This first number does well satisfy the expectation of many years' waiting and holds out a promise of a great future for the journal. Besides two letters of commendation, one from Dr. Oliver Tomkins, Chairman of the Working Committee of the Faith and Order Commission, and the other from Dr. William D. Maxwell, Chairman of the Executive Committee for Promoting Liturgical Research, it contains an Editorial, five serious papers, and a Comment on Christian Initiation by a Baptist, and short reports of liturgical events from India, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The journal follows a plan whereby each number is devoted to a discussion of a main theme, which will be studied for a period of two or three years. The present number has chosen *Baptism, Confirmation* and *First Communion* for its special consideration. All the five papers deal with the different aspects of the main theme. The writers belong to the Anglican, the Lutheran, the Scottish Presbyterian, and the Russian Orthodox Churches; and the defence of Infant Baptism offered by one of them is counterbalanced by 'a Baptist Comment'. In this way the ecumenical spirit is fully kept up in the journal all the way through.

The first of the five papers is on *Liturgy as Proclamation of the Word* by the Rev. S. M. Gibbard of the Society of St. John

the Evangelist, Oxford, England. A brilliant essay on the subject, it is written with an understanding of historical and contemporary trends in theological thinking, as much of Roman Catholicism and Protestantism as of Eastern Orthodoxy. The author shows that each celebration of the Eucharist, with its Preaching of the Word and Corporate Communion, brings the congregation face to face with the dynamics of the Christian Gospel and enables the Church to become rooted in the Redemption made available by it; thus each occasion on which the Liturgy is celebrated makes it possible for the Church to dedicate itself afresh to show forth the reality of the faith to the world. In the second paper, *New Features of the Recent Lutheran Liturgy in America*, the Rev. Professor Luther D. Reed, President Emeritus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, U.S.A., discusses some important aspects of a Service Book adopted in 1958 by eight Lutheran denominations in U.S.A. and Canada, whose total membership comprises about two-thirds of the Lutherans in the two countries. The third is on *Christian Initiation* by the Rev. John Heron, Secretary of the Church of Scotland Commission on Baptism; he offers in it a defence of the practice of baptizing infants. The fourth, a paper in French with a Summary in English, is on *La Saint-Esprit dans la Liturgie* by the Rev. Boris Bobrinskoy, a Priest of the Russian Orthodox Church and a Professor at the Institut Saint-Serge. It stresses the significance of the *epiclesis* in eastern liturgies. The last paper, *The Liturgical Movement and Christian Unity*, is by the Rev. Arthur M. Allchin, Librarian of Pusey House, Oxford. He undertakes in it to show that the central point of the liturgical movement in our times is the Christian doctrine of God. Christian unity should be grounded on that foundation, and therefore the liturgical movement is clearing the way for Christian unity.

For all interested in Christian unity, and particularly in liturgical studies from an ecumenical perspective, *Studia Liturgica* is an invaluable and unavoidable journal. It should be ordered directly through the circulation office, c/o *Studia Liturgica*, Postbus 2, Nieuwendam, Holland. All correspondence and books for review should be addressed to c/o *Studia Liturgica*, Mathenesserelaan, 301c, Rotterdam, Holland. It is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The annual subscription (including postage) is fl. 12 in the Netherlands and fl. 13 in other countries.

V. C. SAMUEL