



October 26

Commemoration: Johann Heermann, 1647, hymnwriter

Born: October 11, 1585 - Raudten (near Wohlau), Schlesien (Silesia)

Died: February 17, 1647 - Lissa, Poland

Johann Heermann, a poet laureate, received theological training as a result of a vow his mother made when he was very ill as a child.

After ordination, Johann Heermann taught at the university, but in 1607, had to stop after he contracted an eye infection. Four years later, he became a deacon, then the Lutheran pastor, in Koeben. His ministry was interrupted several times by the Thirty Years' War, but the faithful minister resumed whenever the fighting died down. In 1634, medical problems forced him to stop preaching, and he finally retired in 1638.

EFFIGIES
Viri Reverendissimi et Clarissimi Dni
JOHAN. HEERMANNI
PL. c. Pastoris ab. Cobdenens. emeriti
Anno. nat. 56. Ministerii 71. C. 1632.

Johann Heermann is considered the most important chorale text writer between Martin Luther and Paul Gerhardt. The present German (Evangelical-Lutheran) hymnal contains 14 chorale texts by Heermann.