

THE WORD REMAINS

WILHELM LÖHE

Selected Writings on the
Church Year and the Christian Life



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Preface to the English Edition

The Word Remains is a collection of excerpts from Wilhelm Löhe's extensive writing on mission, pastoral theology, history, and liturgy. Originally published in German in 2008 under the title *Sein Zeugnis, Sein Leben—Ein Löhe-Brevier*, this is the English translation of a delightful book that gathers his profound wisdom into one small volume, making it well suited for devotional reading. In these pages, Löhe articulates the confessional Lutheran understanding of the church year, the Word of God, and matters related to the Christian life: faith, prayer, fellowship, worship, creation, and hope. In addition, the biography by Hans Kreßel and the appended essay by John T. Pless give insight into Löhe's life, the context in which he lived, and his lasting influence.

Our heartfelt thanks to Freimund Verlag in Neuendettelsau for granting us permission to publish this translation. Stylistically, we sought to reflect the original book as much as possible, using the artwork (portrait and signature on the cover and flourishes throughout the book) they so graciously provided us. In the essay that follows, Herr Seitz offers a list of resources that can be found at Freimund Verlag, in particular Löhe's *Gesammelte Werke*, or "collected works."

We are also grateful to John T. Pless, who first introduced us to this project. In collaboration with translators Matthew Carver, Janet Frese, Michael Frese, William Staab, and Philip Stewart, we worked to achieve both readability and precision in language, taking care to express the richness and eloquence for which Löhe, who has been compared to Goethe, is known. Löhe chooses his words carefully, often intertwining his own with the words of Scripture and the poetry of hymns. With this in mind, we have added very few citations aside from those that appear in the German edition, which were provided by the author himself or the editors of Freimund Verlag.

