

Letter 117: 23 October 1521, Wittenberg, Felix Ulscenius to Capito

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[*Summary*]: Gabriel Zwilling recently preached a sermon against the mass. On 23 October the Augustinians suspended the celebration of mass in their own monastery. They disagreed with Karlstadt about how to proceed. Karlstadt wanted them to preach about the abuses of the mass and abolish it only with the consent of the people, but they argued that the mass was a danger to faith and must be rejected. The matter, therefore, was brought to Melanchthon. He noted that Paul did away with circumcision. Why not do away with the mass, he asked. Johann Femel, who was present at the discussion, lamented that the Reformation movement was so divisive and wished that they had all followed Erasmus' advice. To that Karlstadt responded that there is only room for moderation when all problems have been solved. Justus Jonas now ardently inveighs against the mass and has decided to celebrate mass only once a day in his church, obliging the congregation to take communion in both kinds. Ulscenius will communicate any new development that may concern either Capito or Albert of Brandenburg. Johannes Remboldus is attending all of Melanchthon's lectures. Ulscenius is sending Capito some treatises composed in the past few days by the theologians at Wittenberg.