

Letter 119: 30 November 1521, Wittenberg, Felix Ulscenius to Capito

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[*Summary*]: Ulscenius has received Capito's letter, now lost, and read it to Melanchthon who regretted that Capito did not list any passages in Luther's writings which in his opinion are at variance with Scripture. Melanchthon will write to Capito himself [letter not extant, but cf. MBW, Ep. 179]. Ulscenius assured Melanchthon that Capito agreed with Luther's teaching and only desired that he were more moderate. Melanchthon responded that there is nothing immoderate about calling the enemies of Christ by their real name. Luther was right to attack the enemies of the church by name. Melanchthon will write to Hutten to desist from his attacks on Capito. Fifteen monks have left the priesthood under the leadership of Gabriel Zwilling. There has been no word on Luther's return [from the Wartburg]. Melanchthon is lecturing on 2 Corinthians in Latin and will procure various Christian writings in Greek for his students. Johann Bugenhagen, author of the *Epistola de peccato in Spiritum sanctum*, which Ulscenius recently sent to Capito [see Ep. 118], is lecturing on the Psalms and frequently citing the commentary of Felix da Prato. Ulscenius cannot comment on the future plans of the theologians at Wittenberg, but in many places mass is no longer said. Justas Jonas and Georg Mohr will celebrate mass only if there are people present willing to take communion in both kinds, as Christ instituted. The fund for the poor, instituted by the magistrate on Luther's advice, is daily growing because what was formerly donated to the Church for vigils is now being added to the fund. Many citizens of Wittenberg are giving practical demonstrations of their fervent love for God and their neighbours. Ulscenius will send Capito his notes on Melanchthon's lectures. Ulscenius cannot depart from Wittenberg without disadvantaging himself. He has not yet achieved his goal.