

Letter 193: [End of April/May 1524], Nürnberg, Andreas Osiander to Capito, Martin Bucer and Matthew Zell

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[*Summary*]: Osiander apologizes for not responding to their letters [not extant]. He did not want to discourage or mislead them since he had only bad news to report. But now, finally, despite fierce opposition, the Reformation has made significant inroads in Nürnberg. He describes what happened since the arrival of Lorenzo Campeggio, the cardinal-legate at the Third Diet of Nürnberg, on 14 March 1524. The people of Nürnberg responded favourably and eagerly to Osiander's sermon on the Antichrist and to his two sermons preached on 19 and 20 March concerning confession. Despite opposition from the Augustinians, several thousand people attended a communion service held on 19 March, where both the bread and wine were distributed. Even Queen Isabella of Denmark, the sister of Ferdinand of Austria, participated, to the chagrin of Ferdinand. The following day they omitted all idolatrous practices, despite threats of excommunication from Weigand von Redwitz, bishop of Bamberg. The evangelical preachers have divided their sermon duties: Thomas Gechauf preaches at the Neue Spital on Monday and the Benedictine abbey of the Schottenkloster on Tuesday; Osiander preaches at the parish church of St. Lorenz on Wednesday, at the Augustinians on Thursday, and at the parish church of St. Sebald's on Friday. The reformers already have the ear of the city council, but he hopes for even more support. Reforms have already been introduced: the old Easter ceremonies of acting out the crucifixion and resurrection have not been observed this year. If the papists accept the reforms, the gospel has won the day. Conditions in the margravate of Ansbach-Bayreuth are tumultuous. Osiander asks for Capito's, Bucer's, and Zell's prayers.