

Letter 241: [After 10 April 1525], Strasbourg, Capito to Nicolaus Kniebs

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[*Summary*]: Capito asks that the mass and singing [other than psalms] in church be abolished for the honour of God and for the sake of helping the weaker brethren, although some people are stubborn rather than weak and maliciously oppose the gospel. The Lord's Supper is meant for believers. Those who are weak ought to abstain until they have been strengthened by the Word of God. No improvement can be hoped for, however, until "pagan usages" are abolished. The new order of service should take this form on weekdays when there is no preaching:

1. After a bell is rung, the priest goes through confession and absolution; the congregation answers with "Amen." The acknowledgment of their sins is the basis of grace.
2. The congregation sings a psalm, and the minister preaches a sermon for the moral instruction of the congregation.
3. Silent prayer is followed by the Lord's Prayer.
4. The minister reads a biblical text in German; the congregation responds with "Amen," and is dismissed with a blessing.