

Letter 252a: 5 November 1525, Wittenberg, Martin Luther to [the Strasbourg Preachers]

The text of this letter, formally addressed to Caselius and containing Luther's message to the Strasbourg preachers, is printed in WABr 3, Ep. 942, pp. 603-7 and CorrBucer 2, Ep. 111, pp. 56-59.

[*Summary*]: Luther charges Caselius with relating to the Strasbourg preachers "what he has heard and seen" as well as relaying to them the following message: He prefers peace, but cannot be silent in view of Zwingli's and Oecolampadius' publications [concerning the Eucharist], which are disturbing the church of Wittenberg. He agrees that it is desirable to abstain from abuse, but he must condemn what he regards as wrong. He in turn finds the terms used by the Strasbourgers offensive [see also below, Ep. 253]. He rejects the idea of keeping the common people from discussing the nature of the Eucharist. The Sacramentarian question is crucial: "It is necessary [to judge whether] they or we are the ministers of Satan". There is no middle position. He will not allow the Strasbourgers to dissimulate about their differences of opinion. They have not convinced him that the word *est* is a trope and stands for *significat*. The examples they give are not cogent. He asks them to abstain from teaching their "errors," which he likens to the "madness of the Arians." He insists on his moral right to be assertive.