

Letter 263: [c. 30 November 1525, Strasbourg], Capito to [Johannes Oecolampadius]

The text of the letter is published in BrOek 1, pp. 421-26, Ep. 307.

[*Summary*]: Capito sends Oecolampadius the letters he received from the Wittenbergers [cf. above Epp. 252, 253]. He disapproves of their assertive attitude. Karlstadt has come to Strasbourg and started a controversy about the Eucharist, expressing himself in the most authoritarian terms. He reproached the Strasbourgers for their failure to teach the Real Presence “on account of their custom of making no assertions.” Capito insists that their interpretation of scripture is neither forced nor blasphemous. Luther seized on the term *carnivorum* (“meat-eating”), used by Oecolampadius, to accuse them of being abusive. Brenz has written a long letter to Bucer and Capito [cf. above Ep. 259] in which he makes some concessions to Oecolampadius’ interpretation. He asks Oecolampadius to counsel Zwingli to keep the peace. Bugenhagen used a clever formulation when he said: “I eat nothing but bread and wine, but through the Word I believe in the body and blood (*Edo nihil nisi panem et vinum, sed per verbum corpus et sanguinem credo*).” Capito will send Oecolampadius Brenz’s letter and Bucer’s response.