

Letter 264: 1 December 1525, Strasbourg, The Strasbourg Preachers to the Lords of Gemmingen

Printed in *CorrBucer 2*, pp. 79-86, Ep. 114. The addressees are the brothers Diether, Wolff, and Philipp of Gemmingen, who resided at the castle of Guttenberg/Neckar. They were among the first Franconian nobles to embrace the Reformation.

[*Summary*]: The preachers explain their position on the Sacramentarian controversy: all believers “receive and eat the true body of Christ,” whether they actually receive bread or not, for “God has not tied his gifts to anything external.” They discourage parishioners from asking more detailed questions. To prevent superstitious adoration of the bread by those who have no understanding or faith, Zwingli and Oecolampadius have taught that the bread is a “sign of the body of Christ; the body of Christ is given to believers through the word, such that the mouth eats the bread, and the spirit the body of Christ, through faith.” They are distressed by the discord and dispute over the interpretation of the Eucharist. In their opinion, they are in agreement with the Lutherans on the main issues: “the dispute was merely about words.” Bugenhagen’s views are not incompatible with their own. They trust that the differences with Brenz can eventually be settled. They invite the lords of Gemmingen to discuss their position on the Eucharist.