

Letter 284: 16 April 1526, Strasbourg, Capito to Ulrich Zwingli

Printed in ZwBr 2, pp. 565-6, Ep. 469.

[*Summary*]: In reply to a request from Zwingli to review his [response to Theobaldus Billicanus and Urbanus Rhegius, cf. above Ep. 282], Capito approves of Zwingli's approach and argument. He advises Zwingli to continue writing in a moderate tone, with arguments grounded in scripture. Capito is pleased with Zwingli's news about Bern [letter not extant]. The Strasbourg city council has tried in vain to come to an agreement with the fugitive canons [cf. Ep. 246a]. [Philipp von Hanau] is artfully inciting the citizens of Strasbourg. Capito and his evangelical colleagues are discussing with the city council the abolition of the mass (five are still celebrated daily). Bucer and the rest of the brethren send their greetings, especially [Guillaume] Farel, and Tolnius [pseudonym for Gérard Roussel]. In Heidelberg, there are people now who no longer look for the body of Christ in the Eucharist. They ridicule the *Syngramma Suevicum*, calling it the "Fourteen Patron Saints" (*Fierzehen Nothelfer*).<sup>1</sup> Matthew Zell has been persuaded of the validity of their interpretation [of the Eucharist], but with some difficulty. There are people "who subscribe to one thing in our presence and affirm another in the absence of their friends." Capito sends greetings to [Conradus] Pellicanus, [Oswald] Myconius, Leo Jud and the rest of the brethren.

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<sup>1</sup> I.e. Johannes Brenz' *Syngramma Suevicum* (1525), a treatise in which he defends Luther's position on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is co-signed by fourteen theologians.