

### Text of the Placards placed in Paris (18 October 1534)

**“True articles on the horrible, great and unbearable abuses of the Papal Mass, invented directly against the ‘holy scene’<sup>1</sup> of our Lord, only Mediator and only Savior Jesus Christ.”**

French title: Articles véritables sur les horribles, grands et insupportables abus de la messe papale, inventée directement contre la sainte cène de notre Seigneur, seul Médiateur et seul Sauveur Jésus Christ.

I invoke the heavens and earth as witness to the Truth, against this pompous and haughty Papal mass, by which the world (if God does not soon remedy) is and will be totally ruined, marred, lost and desolate: when in [it] our Lord is so outrageously blasphemed and the people seduced and blinded, that which we must not suffer nor endure...

1) To all faithful Christians it is and must be very certain that... Jesus Christ, as the great Bishop and eternal Pastor ordained by God, [gave] his body, his soul, his life and his blood for our sanctification, in a very perfect sacrifice: which cannot be nor should be ever repeated by any visible sacrifice... and nevertheless the earth is... filled with miserable sacrificers, who, as if they were our redeemers, put themselves in the place of Jesus Christ or make themselves [his] companions, saying that they are offering to God a sacrifice that is pleasant and pleasing... for the salvation both of the living as well as the deceased: which thing they do [openly] against every truth of the Holy Scriptures... (Epistle to the Hebrews, ch. 7, 9, 10)...

2) In this unfortunate mass, one has virtually provoked the world to a universal public idolatry, when falsely one is given to hear that in the species of the bread and of the wine Jesus Christ is corporally and truly contained and hidden, and... personally in flesh and bone, as great and perfectly as if in the present he were alive. That which our Holy Scriptures, and our faith, does not teach us, but... the contrary. For Jesus Christ after the resurrection rose up to heaven, and is seated at the [right] of God the almighty Father and from there will come to judge the living and the dead... By which it follows well, that if his body is in heaven, at this same time, then it is not on earth...

3) The blind sacrificers... in their frenzy also said and taught that after having breathed or spoken over the bread, which they take in their hands and over the wine, which they place in a chalice, therein abides neither bread nor wine, but... by transubstantiation, Jesus Christ is behind the *accidens* of the bread and the wine hidden and surrounded... Wherein did they invent this ghastly word “transubstantiation”? Saint Paul, Saint Matthew, Saint Mark, Saint Luke and the ancient Fathers never spoke such: but when they mention the holy scene, they [openly] and simply speak of the bread and the wine...

4) The fruit of the mass is truly contrary to the fruit of the holy scene of Jesus Christ, which is not too [astounding], for between Christ and Belial there is nothing in common. The fruit of the holy scene of Jesus Christ is to publicly make a protest of one’s faith and in sure confidence of one’s salvation have memory of the death and passion of Jesus Christ, through which we are redeemed from damnation and perdition. Also remembering the great love and tenderness by which he so loved us that he gave his life for us... Also, in partaking together of one bread and one drink, we are admonished to love and great unity in which all by one spirit must live and die in Jesus Christ. But the fruit of the mass is quite other... By her all knowledge of Jesus Christ is erased, the preaching of the Gospel is rejected and prevented, time is spent with ringings, howlings, chants, ceremonies, luminaries, incense, disguises and every manner of monkey business [lit. *singerie*], through which the poor world like sheep or miserable lambs not cared for and [duped] by these ravaging wolves are eaten, gnawed on, and devoured...

They kill, they burn, they destroy, they murder like robbers anyone who contradicts [them]... Truth threatens them, Truth follows them and overtakes them, Truth terrifies them. By which [soon] they will be destroyed. [so may it be!] Amen.

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<sup>1</sup>“Holy Scene” is the French term for Holy Communion or the Lord’s Supper, as it is said to reenact the death of Christ.