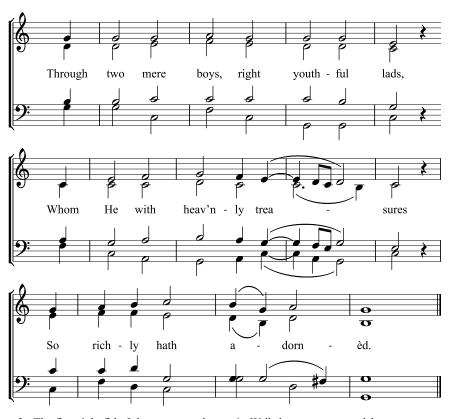
A New Song Now Shall Be Begun

Ein neues Lied wir heben an Ein neues Lied 8.7. 8.7. 8.7. 8.7. 7. Martin Luther, 1523 Martin Luther, 1523 Tr. composite Arr. Friedrich Layriz, 1854, alt. P shall be gun, new song now sing what Lord God hath done our 0 help tell the God ry, Un to His praise and glo ry. Brus - sels in the Neth er lands He made His won Hath known ders,



- 2 The first right fitly John was named, So rich he in God's favor: A Christian true and free from blame Was Henry, his dear brother. Out from this world they both have trod, Their heav'nly crowns they cherished, Like any pious child of God, For His Word have they perished. His martyrs they have become.
- 3 The ancient Foe did have them bound, With terrors to enwrap them; When to God's Word they true were found, He sought by guile to trap them. From Louvain many Sophists came, With their accursed learning, By Satan gathered to the game; But God, the tables turning, Denied them all victory.
- 4 Well, they sang sweet and they sang sour, Crafts of all kinds devising; The youths stood steadfast as a tow'r, The Sophists' pow'r despising. The ancient Foe was filled with hate To be thus overtaken By such young men, and he so great; His wrath did then awaken. And he resolved to burn them.
- 5 They stripped them of their monkish garb, Their priestly vestments taking; The youths for this were well prepared, A joyful "Amen!" speaking. To God their Father gave they thanks, For He at last had freed them From all the devil's masks and pranks, Wherewith he'd fain mislead them, The whole world thus deceiving.

- 6 Thus by God's grace it came to pass
 That they true priests were rendered.
 Themselves they offered at the last,
 And Christ's own priesthood entered.
 Unto the world they died indeed,
 Hypocrisy renouncing,
 And came to heaven, pure and free,
 Their monkish ways denouncing,
 Forsaking all men's trifles.
- 7 A statement for the youths they wrote
 And bade them read it over;
 Therein they did their doctrine note,
 Their errors to uncover.
 Their greatest fault was to proclaim:
 "We ought to trust God solely,
 For men are naught but liars vain;
 We should distrust them wholly."
 For this they must both be burned!
- 8 Two blazing fires they kindled then;
 The youths they brought unto them;
 Great wonder seized on all the men,
 For fear could not undo them.
 With joy they gave themselves to death,
 With songs to God, and praises;
 The Sophists' courage waned and fled,
 For God, who new things raises,
 A wonder had now prepared.

- 9 They now do rue and feel their blame, They fain would gloss it over. They dare not glory in their shame, The tale they seek to cover. They feel the deed within their breast And for their part deplore it, But now the Spirit cannot rest, For Abel's blood outpourèd Must evermore Cain accuse.
- Their ashes ne'er shall cease to swell;
 They fly to ev'ry nation.
 No stream, hole, ditch, or grave can quell
 Or hide th' abomination.
 He who did seek with murd'rous hand
 To silence them while living
 Now in their death through ev'ry land
 Must hear men praises giving
 And singing right joyfully.
- 11 From lies to lies they still proceed,
 And feign forthwith a story
 To color o'er the murd'rous deed;
 Their conscience pricks them sorely.
 Those saints of God e'en after death
 They've slandered, and asserted
 The youths had with their final breath
 Confessed and been converted,
 Their heresy renouncing.
- 12 Well, let them lie forevermore;
 No favor they'll be earning.
 We'll ever thank our God, therefore:
 His Word is now returning.
 The summer is hard by the door,
 And winter starts to shun it,
 The tender flow'rs now bloom once more,
 And He who hath begun it
 Will surely complete His work.

Martin Luther wrote "A New Song Now Shall Be Begun" to celebrate the Augustinian monks Johann Esch and Heinrich Voes, who were burned alive in 1523 for the cause of the Reformation. The text and music here presented are in the public domain and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

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