

# A New Song Now Shall Be Begun

*Ein neues Lied wir heben an*  
Martin Luther, 1523  
Tr. composite

8.7. 8.7. 8.7. 8.7. 7.

**Ein neues Lied**  
Martin Luther, 1523  
Arr. Friedrich Layriz, 1854, alt.

A new song now shall be begun,  
To sing what our Lord God hath done

God help us tell the sto - ry,  
Un - to His praise and glo - ry.

At Brus - sels in the Neth - er - lands

Hath He made known His won - ders,

Through two mere boys, right youth - ful lads,

Whom He with heav'n - ly trea - sures

So rich - ly hath a - dorn - ed.

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

- 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 outpoured  
Must evermore Cain accuse.
- 10 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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## The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

*presents*

# A New Song Now Shall Be Begun

*by*

Martin Luther

*and translated by*

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