

Editor's Notes for *Dos Lavatorios*

The washing of the feet on Maundy (Holy) Thursday Mass emulates Christ's action on the night before He died, when He teaches His disciples how they are to love one another in imitation of His love for them. The priest should be the primary example for the Christian community of Jesus' self-giving and humbling act of love for His friends, which is why He leads the washing of the feet.

The priest washes the feet of several persons during this ritual, and this takes time, thus creating space for music, often in the form of an antiphon, hymn, or motet. Typically, a piece may be repeated as necessary until the ritual is complete. These two antiphons are specifically intended for the purpose. The traditional lyrics are derived from John 13: 6-8, when Jesus washes the feet of His disciple Peter.

Hilarión Eslava, whom we believe to be composer of these two pieces, was a master of choral invention, as can be seen with these examples. While each antiphon has the same lyrics and is for a cappella SATB voicings, they are quite different in melody and choral structure. They could be sung singly, or one after the other.

These brief manuscript compositions come to us from the music archive of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Santiago de Chile, by way of Chilean musicologist Alejandro Vera Aguilera. They are among a larger inventory of music by Eslava in Santiago's cathedral, which we are now only beginning to explore. The exact source of the manuscripts is not yet known.

Antiphon for Maundy Thursday

Source of text is John 13:6-8

Domine tu mihi lavas pedes? Respondit Iesus et dixit ei: Si non laveris tibi pedes, non habebis partem mecum.	Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said to him: If I wash thee not, thou shalt have no part with me.
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