

## Editor's Notes for *Christus factus est*

*"Christus factus est [pro nobis obediens]"* ("Christ became obedient"), taken from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Philippians (2:8), is a gradual (hymn) in the Roman Catholic liturgy of the Mass. It was traditionally sung on Maundy Thursday, until in 1969 it became employed also as a hymn on Palm Sunday. Up until then it was also sung daily at the conclusion of the rite of *Tenebrae* (Matins and Lauds) and as the first part of the *Miserere* sung on the last days of Holy Week.

Many composers have set this gradual to music, and Eslava composed several different versions of it. He wrote multiple *Misereres* for Holy Week, each with their own *"Christus factus est"* gradual as the first movement or antiphon; however, this particular standalone version is quite different. It appears to have been written later in Eslava's life, when he was incorporating a wider range of instruments such as harp and timpani in his music, a trend that was not generally considered acceptable for liturgical purposes by the Catholic authorities of the time, and that was ultimately prohibited by Pope Pius X in his infamously retrograde 1903 motu proprio *"Tra le sollecitudini"* (Italian for "among the concerns").

The original score used in this transcription was published by Eslava's nephew Bonifacio Eslava in Madrid, with the subtitle *"Antifona del Miserere"*, which would indicate that this work might have been intended as an alternate *"Christus factus est"* for an existing or a new *Miserere*, or perhaps for use by itself as a sacred concert piece.

### LATIN LYRICS:

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens  
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.  
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen,  
quod est super omne nomen.

### ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

Christ became obedient for us unto death,  
even to the death, death on the cross.  
Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name,  
which is above all names.