BEFORE THY CROSS

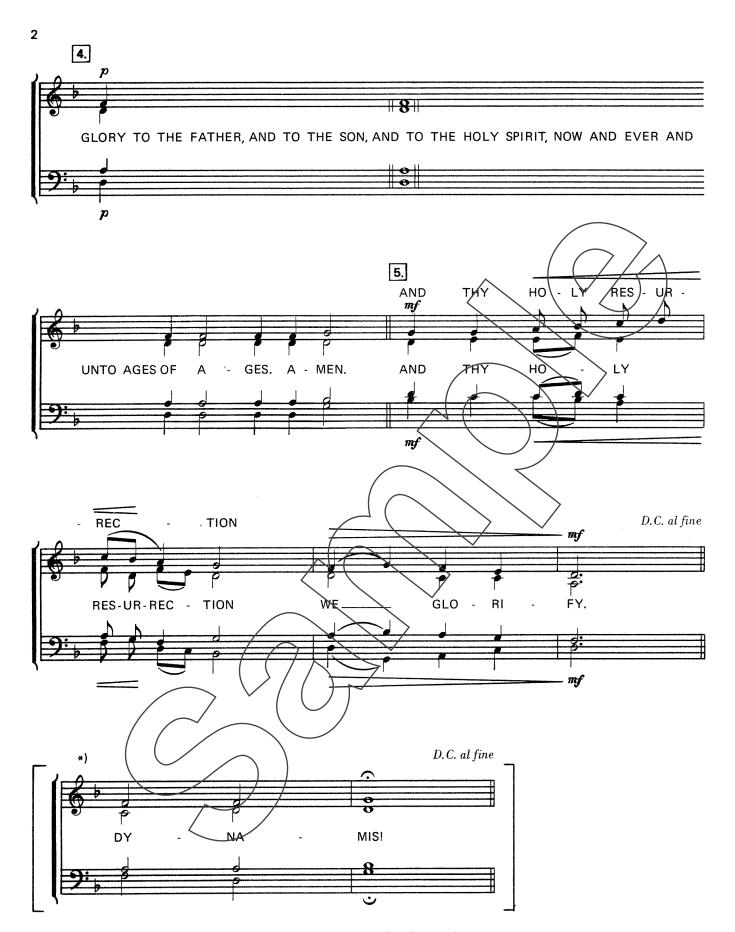
The Very Reverend James Camal Meena (b. 1924) has been associated with Orthodox liturgical singing from his childhood. The son of a priest, he served as a reader, singer, and choir director, prior to his ordination to the priesthood. He holds a music degree in theory and composition from Baldwin-Wallace College and is Past Director of Sacred Music for the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese.

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While Before Thy Cross is usually sung in Tone 2 in Antiochian-Byzantine practice, the composer heard it chanted in Tone 1 for many years as a youth. The haunting beauty of the melody compelled him to prepare the present choral arrangement based on the First Tone.

V. Rev. JAMES C. MEENA Byzantine melody of the Antiochian Tradition Tone 1





*) NOTE: In Greek liturgical practice the exclamation "Dynamis!," meaning "Louder!" or "Stronger!," is chanted by the priest and is repeated by the choir prior to singing the hymn for the last time.