

HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

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.

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

1, 2, 3, 6 Quietly, Calmly

mf BE - FORE THY - CROSS WE BOW

Soprano Alto

mf BE - FORE THY CROSS WE BOW DOWN IN

Tenor Bass

f AND THY HO - LY RES - UR -

WOR - SHIP, O OUR MAS - TER, AND THY HO - LY

f

REC - TION

mf RES - UR - REC - TION WE GLO - RI - FY. *fine*

mf

4.

p

GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND EVER AND

p

5.

mf

UNTO AGES OF A - GES. A - MEN. AND THY HO - LY RES - UR -

mf

mf D.C. al fine

REC - TION RES-UR-REC - TION WE GLO - RI - FY.

mf

*) D.C. al fine

DY - NA - MIS!

*) 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.