Ashes to Ashes

Based on Lenten liturgical texts

INTRO  Moderato (\(q = \text{ca. 92}\))

Keyboard

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
& Gm & F/A & Bb & C\text{sus4} & C \\
\end{array}
\]

REFRAIN (Tempo Io)

Soprano

Alto

Bb/D

F

rit. Baritone

Dm

F

C/E

Am/C

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
& Gm & F/A & Bb & C\text{sus4} & C \\
\end{array}
\]

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Ashes to Ashes

Read us to follow the way of your Son, to rise from these ashes, redeemed in the fire of your love.

To Verses

Fine
VERSES: Ash Wednesday  *Slower, with rubato* *(= ca. 88)*

1. **Sound the trumpet in Zion, announce from the Lord** that the  
   **days of God’s favor is ever at hand.** *(Joel 2:1)*

2. **Rend your hearts, not your garments; return to the Lord, who de-**  
   **livers our lands out of dust.** *(Joel 2:13)*

3. **We have seen the heavens and hold in our arms what the**  
   **hand of our Maker fashion out of dust.** *(Isaiah 58:6–7)*

4. **Let us fast from unkindness and turn from our greed, giving**  
   **glory awaits those who put their trust in God.** *(Psalm 37:2–3)*

5. **Though this life that we treasure must decay like the grass,**  
   **and heaven’s**

**Ashes to Ashes**

```
&
&
&
&

B♭  C
Csus4  C

Dm

m

B♭  C
Csus4  C

Dm

m


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Gm  F/A  B♭  E♭  C  D.S.

Gm  F/A  B♭  E♭  C  D.S.
```
VERSES: Throughout Lent  

Slower, with rubato (\( \text{\( \frac{1}{2} \) = ca. 88} \))

1. We abide in the shadow of God’s mighty arm, for the

2. As the highest of heavens surpasses the earth, so the

3. Though his nature is holy yet Christ became sin, so that

1. Lord is our refuge, the Rock from whom we trust, (Psalm 91:2)

2. might of God’s mercy is far beyond our shame, (Psalm 103:11)

3. we might inherit the holiness of God, (2 Corinthians 5:21)
Based on Lenten liturgical texts

Ashes to Ashes

(Guitar/Vocal)

INTRO  Moderato (\(\frac{\text{d}}{\text{m}} = \text{ca. 92}\))

Capo 3:

\[\text{Gm (Em)}\]
\[\text{F (A/F#)}\]
\[\text{Bb (G)}\]
\[\text{Csus4 (A)}\]
\[\text{B/F/D (G/B)}\]
\[\text{F (D)}\]

rit.

REFRAIN (Tempo I°)

\[\frac{\text{mp}}{\text{a tempo}}\]

\[\text{D (F)}\]
\[\text{A/C# (C/E)}\]
\[\text{Bm (Dm)}\]
\[\text{F#m/A (Am/C)}\]
\[\text{G (B)}\]

\[\text{Dm (Gm)}\]
\[\text{Gm (Csus4)}\]
\[\text{C (D7/F#)}\]
\[\text{Gm (B/F/D)}\]

\[\text{D/F# (F)}\]

\[\text{F/A (D/F#)}\]

\[\text{D/F (D)}\]

Ashes to ashes, from dust unto dust. The cross on our forehead, your promise, O God. Read us to follow the way of your Son, to rise from these ashes, redeemed in the fire of your love.

To Verses

\[\text{Csus4 (A)}\]
\[\text{G/B (B/F/D)}\]

Final

\[\text{B/F/D (F)}\]

\[\text{Fine}\]

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VERSES: Ash Wednesday  
Slower, with rubato (\(=\) ca. 88)

1. Sound the trumpet in Zion, announce from the Lord that the
2. Rend your hearts, not your garments; return to the Lord, who de-
3. We have seen in the heavens and held in our arms what the
4. Let us fast from unkindness and turn from our greed, giving
5. Though this life that we are sure must fade like the grass, heav-en’s

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<tr>
<td>Gm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. day of God’s favor is ever close at hand. (Joel 2:1)
2. lights when we offer a truly humble heart. (Joel 2:13)
3. hand of our Maker out of dust. (Isaiah 58:6-7)
4. bread to the hungry and lifting up the poor. (Psalm 103:11)
5. glory awaits those who put their trust in God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

VERSES: Throughout Lent  
Slower, with rubato (\(=\) ca. 88)

1. We abide in the shadow of God’s mighty arm, for the
2. As the highest of heavens surpasses the earth, so the
3. Though his nature is holy Christ became sin, so that

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1. Lord is our refuge, the one to whom we trust. (Psalm 91:2)
2. might of God’s mercy far beyond our shame. (Psalm 103:11)
3. we might inherit the goodness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
Ashes to Ashes

CELLO

Arr. by Gerard Chiusano

INTRO  Moderato (\( \dot{q} = \text{ca. 92} \))

REFRAIN: Tempo I

VERSE  Slower, with rubato (\( \dot{q} = \text{ca. 88} \))

VERSE 2: Slower, with rubato (\( \dot{q} = \text{ca. 88} \))

VERSE 3: Slower, with rubato (\( \dot{q} = \text{ca. 88} \))

FINAL REFRAIN: Tempo I

*When more than three verses are to be sung, repeat to any of the previous refrains.
Composer Notes

In the liturgy of Ash Wednesday, “Ashes to ashes, dust unto dust” refers to the Hebrew scripture passage “By the sweat of your brow shall you make bread to eat, until you return to the earth from which you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). But for those who have faith in Jesus Christ, God never leaves us in the dust and ashes of death, because we will share in the glory of the Resurrection.

The ashes are placed on our forehead in the form of a cross, the sign of Christ’s victory over death. But this is not the only time during our journey of faith that we are signed on our forehead with a cross; the same happens in Baptism, Confirmation, and in the Anointing of the Sick. We are marked with a cross to show that we belong to God, to the People of God. That cross is no longer a curse, but the sign of God’s blessing.

The prayer we begin on Ash Wednesday continues throughout the Lenten season. We ask God to prepare us to follow the way of his Son, the way that takes us through Passion and Death into the glory of the Resurrection. We pray that God may purify us from the ashes of our lives, by redeeming us in the fire of his love. God’s love, like the refiner’s fire, purifies us so that we may shine with glory of new life in Christ. It is this love, a love that can never allow death to have the final word, that will raise us up, just as it did Jesus, from the dust and ashes of death.

Many of the verses are based on the lectionary texts for the season of Lent. The scripture references have been included at the end of each verse. When used on the Sundays of Lent, the alternate verses may be used, as well as those designated for Ash Wednesday. The verses should be performed at a slightly slower tempo, with significant rubato between the phrases. And when venturing back into the refrain, rather than using a crescendo, this piece actually employs a decrescendo. The refrain begins with a rather gentle and tender mood, but builds toward the lyric “the way of your Son, to rise,” which is the high point of the text.

—Dan Schutte
ASHES TO ASHES

Dan Schutte

Refrain
Ashes to ashes, from dust unto dust. The cross on our forehead, your promise, O God.

Read us to follow the way of our Son, to rise from these ashes, redeemed in the fire of your love.

Verses: Ash Wednesday
1. Sound the trumpet, proclaim from the Lord that the day of God’s faith is ever close at hand.
2. Rend your hearts, not your garments, return to the Lord, who delights when we enter a truly humble heart.
3. We have seen in the heavens and held in our arms what the hand of our fashion out of dust.
4. Giving bread to the hungry and lifting up the poor, heaven’s glory awaits those who put their trust in God.
5. Though this life that we treasure must fade like the grass, though our toil may seem a waste of time, yet God’s favor waits those who put their trust in God.

Verses: Throughout Lent
1. We abide in the shadow of God’s mighty arm, for the Lord is our refuge, the rock in whom we trust.
2. As the highest of heavens surpasses the earth, so the might of God’s mercy is far beyond our shame.
3. Though his nature is holy,urer became sin, so that we might in her name the holiness of God.

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