

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II AUGUST 10, 2025 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM





# GLORIFYING GOD BY REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com, email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email *office@episcopalloudon.com* to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook: facebook.com/episcopalloudon.

# Holy Eucharist, Rite II The Word of God

**Prelude** (only at 10:30) Sonata in D Major, K.288

Domenico Scarlatti

**Entrance Hymn** (only at 10:30)

Lord, make us servants of your peace

Hymnal 593

All standing BCP 355

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and

from you no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**The Gloria** (Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)

Hymnal S-280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.** 

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

#### The Lessons

The First Lesson: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Lector The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24

**BCP 654** 

*Lector* We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*
  he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \* God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \* before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \* to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, \* those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \* **for God himself is judge.**
- 7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \* for I am God, your God.
- 8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \* your offerings are always before me.
- 23 Consider this well, you who forget God, \* lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.
- 24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; \* but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

#### The Second Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews. Lector

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord. Lector Thanks be to God. People

#### Sequence Hymn (only at 10:30)

*Take my life, and let it be (verses 1 & 2)* 

Hymnal 707

All stand

#### The Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:32-40

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Celebrant

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their

master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn (only at 10:30)

Take my life, and let it be (repeat verse 1)

Hymnal 707

Sermon Mark Smith

The Nicene Creed

**BCP 358** 

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,

#### The Prayers of the People, Form II

**BCP 385** 

Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, sitting, or kneeling as able. Please add those intercessions and thanksgivings on your heart, silently or aloud, at the appropriate points in the prayers.

*Lector* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Presiding Bishop Sean; our Diocesan Bishop, Brian; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church. Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence* 

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. And we remember especially Jackie C.; Becca H.; J.L.; David H.: Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon; and all your children who suffer the effects of war, oppression, or natural disasters.

Pray for those in any need or trouble. Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence* 

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died. *Silence* 

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present. Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence* 

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Confession of Sin BCP 359

Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.

#### Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

#### Celebrant and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

#### Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace BCP 360

Standing as you are able.

*Celebrant* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

#### The Holy Communion

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,

a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2a

Offertory Anthem (sung by the choir)

Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoicing

Hymnal 334

The Celebrant invites the people's offerings.

Doxology (only at 10:30)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

1 Chronicles 29:14

Celebrant For all things come from you, O Lord; People and of your own have we given you.

#### The Great Thanksgiving

#### **Eucharistic Prayer**

From Enriching Our Worship, The Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church: New York: Church Publishing, 1997

#### Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Hymnal S-120

(Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)

Celebrant The Lord be with you,People And also with you.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

**Sanctus** (Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)

Hymnal S-125

Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.** (Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread and a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Fraction Hymn** (*Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*)

Hymnal S-161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle. so that traffic flows one way.

If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen**.

#### **Communion Hymn**

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

Hymnal 348

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Announcements | Blessings of Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### The Blessing

Post-Communion Hymn (only at 10:30)

*Great is Thy Faithfulness (see insert)* 

The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration #43

#### The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Postlude** (only at 10:30) Andante Religioso

Léon Böllmann

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our parents by Betsy & Bill Schwindt.

# Parish Announcements, Prayers, & Thanksgivings

#### Love is the Way Book Group

The group will meet on Sundays from 9:30 - 10:15 in the Chapel, now through August 24. Want to join us? Contact Rev. Becky.

### Rooted and Ready: How to Lead a Bible Study Saturday, August 16, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens Registration Link: www.dioet.org/rootedandready Cost: \$10 (Resurrection will reimburse this fee) The diocese is hosting a one-day workshop on leading a bible study group with practical resources, facilitation practices, and more. This workshop is open to lay and clergy participants aged 14 and up.

#### **Grace Point Day**

Saturday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center, Kingston Cost: Free, No Registration Required Join Episcopalians from across the diocese as we celebrate the close of summer with one last day of fun at Grace Point. Activities range from splashing in the pool and hiking the trails to kayaking and trips on the boat. There's no cost and lunch is provided."

#### Resurrection Men

#### Saturday, August 23, 9:00 a.m

Our first meeting of the year will be Saturday, August 23. We normally meet on the third Saturday monthly; please note that this happens to be the fourth Saturday.

As always we will gather first (9:00 a.m.) for a light breakfast. We will be studying Lesson 1 (Noah) of *Ten Men of the Bible* by Max Lucado (available on Amazon) All men of Resurrection are welcome to join us. Please contact Mark Hennes at mhennes81@ icloud.com if you have questions.

#### Pinecone Tying Workdays

Please join us on Tuesdays (August 12 and/or 19) and Thursdays (August 14 and/or 21) to start the Christmas wreath process. Yes, it's really that time again! 1:30 all four days, in the Parish Hall.

#### Memorial Garden Fee Increase September 1st

To lock in the current pricing for yourself or a family member, you may apply and pay for your plot or plaque by August 31. Applications are available in the church office. Please speak with Jane Mocilac or Jean Cardwell if you have any questions.

#### **Our Parish Prayer List**

Jackie C.; J.L.; David H.; Becca H.; Robyn; Kathleen; Jenon;

#### **Continuing Prayers for:**

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentchel family; Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane; Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

#### For our Vestry leaders:

Class of 2025: Lisa A., Donna B., Diane V.K. Class of 2026: Drew H., Dawson H., Jenny L. Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H. Officers: Jenny L., Diane V.K., Dawson H., Sally L.

#### Also for the Diocesan Prayer List:

For the Diocese of Tennessee
For the Diocese of West Tennessee
For the Laypeople of the Three Dioceses in Tennessee

#### **August Birthdays & Anniversaries**

August 1	Betsy & Bill Schwindt
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August 3 Kathleen & Ron Bailey

August 3 Judy Keller

August 3 Bryan Ledyard

August 5 Alice Anderson

August 5 Dianna & Pete Stimpson

August 12 Pam McAfee

August 13 Karen & Mark Blakley

August 15 Linda Lefler

August 24 Jan & Bush Hanna

August 24 Betty Martin

August 25 Jan Hanna

August 25 Gloria Andrzejewski

August 27 Jen Hennes

## For Your Calendars

Please note: Regular office hours are weekdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m EXCEPT Thursdays (closed)

August 10	8:00 am	10:30 am		
Acolyte	Jack Lefler	Mark Smith	Altar Guild:	Bev Baumgardner
EM	Mark Hennes	Bonnie Smith	Flower Guild:	Judy Hadjian
Lectors	Diane Van Koughnett	t Betsy Schwindt	Organist:	Judy Moyer
Ushers	Kathleen Bailey	Andy Hadjian & Keytha Graves	Celebrant:	Rebecca Bridges
Chancellor	Holly Pate	Nelda Griffith	Preacher:	Mark Smith
Coffee Hour	Jen Hennes	Ginny Tolbert	Monday Volunteer (8/11)	
Video	n/a	Ann Murphy		Jenny Lucas
Counters	n/a	Andy Hadjian & Alice Anderson		

August 17	8:00 am	10:30 am		
Acolyte	Andrew Wilkinson	Drew Hawley	Altar Guild:	Bev Baumgardner
EM	Holly Pate	Judy Egan	Flower Guild:	Betty Martin
Lectors	Peggy Rogers	Jackie Buttinelli	Organist:	Judy Moyer
Ushers	Jerry Ploeger	Art Stewart & Monty Ross	Celebrant &	
Chancellor	Jerry Ploeger	David Baumgardner	Preacher:	Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Rosemary Kitts	Jenny Lucas	Monday Volunteer (8/18)	
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine		Mark Hennes
Counters	n/a	Monty Ross & Carolyn Parker		

#### **Next Week at Resurrection**

Monday, August 11

7:00 p.m. - AA (open meeting)

Tuesday, August 12

1:30 p.m. - Pinecone Tying for wreaths

Tuesday - Wednesday, August 12-13 Cades Cove Sunrise Hike

Wednesday, August 13

9:00 a.m. - Deadline for Parish Tidings or bulletin submissions

Thursday, August 14

1:30 p.m. - Pinecone Tying for wreaths

Saturday, August 16

10:00 a.m. - Rooted & Ready Class @ St. Paul's, Athens

Sunday, August 17

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, spoken

9:30 a.m. - Love is the Way Book Group

10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, choral

#### **COMING UP...**

Check your Parish Tidings for upcoming details.

Tuesday, August 19

Pinecone Tying for Wreaths

Wednesday, August 20

**Pastoral Care Meeting** 

Thursday, August 21

Prayers & Squares

Pinecone Tying for Wreaths

Saturday, August 23

Resurrection Men

Daughters of the King

Grace Point Day

Sunday, August 24

Holy Eucharist, spoken

Love is the Way Book Group (Chapel)

Holy Eucharist, choral

Four Paws Collection Sunday

To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges, please email rector@episcopalloudon.com or call the church (865-986-2390). For pastoral needs after hours, call 865-242-9240...

## TODAY'S ART



Commentary by Aaron Rosen

Title: "Abraham and the Three Angels",

c.1960-66

Artist: Marc Chagall

Oil on canvas

On display at Musée National Marc Chagall,

Nice, France

MBMC6, © Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris; Photo: Gérard Blot © RMN-Grand Palais / Art Resource, NY

What is the best way to depict a dinner party? For Christian painters, the answer has been obvious. Whether the subject is the Last Supper or the Hospitality of Abraham, figures are almost always shown facing the viewer. Marc Chagall turns his back on this iconography. Throughout his career, he frequently returned to the story of Abraham and the angels. While he played with a number of arrangements, he consistently turns his angels away from the viewer. There is a puckishness to this choice, typical of an artist who prized his ingenuity, but also something more profound: Chagall deliberately avoids creating a devotional relationship between the viewer and the angels. They are never presented as a Holy Trinity. Instead, our eyes are drawn to Abraham standing at the far left of the composition, who returns our gaze. We cannot help feeling a bit like uninvited guests, travellers who have arrived too late and find the table full and the host exhausted.

Chagall makes other adjustments, too. In an earlier version, Chagall included the binding of Isaac in the top right of his composition, echoing images from the sixth-century mosaics in San Vitale, Ravenna, and Lorenzo Ghiberti's fifteenth-century bronze reliefs for the doors of Florence Baptistery. From a Christian perspective, pairing the two scenes makes perfect sense: the angels represent the Trinity and the Sacrifice of Isaac prefigures the Crucifixion. This may be precisely why Chagall omitted this event in the later work. Instead, he depicts the angels descending toward Sodom at the upper right. The linking of the hospitality story with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19) follows biblical chronology more closely. Just as importantly, it raises questions that have historically concerned Jewish commentators. The angels' visit demonstrates Abraham's personal hospitality. The Sodom story, though, puts his charity to a more global test. We know the patriarch will open his home to strangers, but will he stick up for people of ill repute? Chagall's image emphasizes the connection between personal and social duties. We must stick out our necks, even—maybe especially—for those who can't possibly be angels.

Reference: https://thevcs.org/hospitality-abraham #hospitality-trial