



# Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2026 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

917 Pond Road, Loudon, TN 37774  
865.986.2390

[www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com)



GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! 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. Also, 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, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue Hymnal 1982. 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 I.

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To learn more about Resurrection, check out [www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com),  
email us at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com), or  
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) to subscribe to our weekly church email, the Parish Tidings, for all 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](https://facebook.com/episcopalloudon) or on YouTube [@ChurchoftheResurrectionLoudon](https://YouTube).

# Third Sunday after Pentecost)

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Service of the Word

Prelude *Judas Maccabaeus*

G.F. Handel

Entrance Hymn  
*The God of Abraham praise*

*Please stand as able.*  
Hymnal 401

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*All* **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.**

Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

The First Lesson: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?”

The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116: 1, 10-17 *Dilexi, quoniam*

BCP 759

*Lector*        We will read the Psalm responsively. *Congregation reads bold lines.*

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*

**because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.**

How shall I repay the LORD \*

**for all the good things he has done for me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation \*

**and call upon the Name of the LORD.**

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
**in the presence of all his people.**

Precious in the sight of the LORD\*  
**is the death of his servants.**

O LORD, I am your servant; \*

**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
**and call upon the Name of the LORD.**

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
**in the presence of all his people,**

In the courts of the LORD's house, \*

**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

*Lector and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-8

*Lector* A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8-23

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! (verses 4 & 5)*

Hymnal 438

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges

The Nicene Creed

*Please stand as able.*

**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.

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,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People                      Form VI

BCP 392

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Intercessor*    In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

*People*            **For our families, friends, neighbors, & for  
those who are alone, praying especially for Jackie &  
Russ C., Jeanette, Walter, Jim N., Vicky & Dave, Lee R.,  
the McAfee family, Bill & Martha F., Frank & Ruth  
Hennessy, & all who are in pain or distress.**

*Intercessor*    For this community, the nation, and the world;

*People*            **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Intercessor* For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*People* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression, and all who are suffering due to war, gun violence, or natural disasters.**

*Intercessor* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*People* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*People* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Intercessor* For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; and Brian our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
*People* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Intercessor* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.  
*The People may add their own petitions, silently or aloud.*

*Intercessor* Hear us, Lord;  
*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

*Silence is held for individual confession before we say the Confession together.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All 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  
Brief Announcements

*Please stand as able.*

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Music

*What wondrous love is this*

Hymnal 439

Doxology (Spoken at 8:00. Sung together at 10:30.)

Hymnal 380, verse 3

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

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

*Sursum Corda* (Lift Up Your Hearts)

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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing (say) this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)

Hymnal S-129

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*Celebrant* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN. (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)

Hymnal S-146

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*All* *The Lord's Prayer* BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

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

*Celebrant* Alleuia, 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-163

*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. 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, you may come forward along with those receiving communion. Please cross your arms over your chest to show that you prefer a blessing.*

Communion Hymn

*(congregation, please join choir in singing)*

*Come down, O love divine*

Hymnal 516

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

**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.**

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings § The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Hymnal 390

The Dismissal

Postlude

# Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings

Today's altar flowers  
are given by  
**Kim and Marc Strong**  
in recognition of  
their 42nd wedding anniversary,  
which is on Tuesday, June 16.

## Building Security

Please remember to lock the door as you leave—even if you are not the last one to leave! You can lock the door regardless of whether you have an access code just by pulling the door closed behind you and pressing and holding the oval Lock button. You should see the deadbolt engage.

## Saying Farewell on June 21

We will have one combined worship service on June 21 at 9:30 a.m., followed by coffee hour. Please join us to bid Rev. Becky farewell.

## Diocesan Prayer List

Please join us in prayer for:

June 14: Grace, Chattanooga, TN

St. John the Evangelist, Eagle Butte, SD

June 21: St. Timothy's & St. Timothy's Pre-School,

Signal Mountain, TN

Holy Apostles, Sioux Falls, SD

June 28: St. Clare, LaFollette, TN

St. Katharine, Martin, SD

Gethsemane, Wanblee, SD

Christ, Red Shirt Table, SD

July 7: For the Country (BCP, p. 820)

For Sound Government (BCP, p. 821)

July 12: For Young Persons, (BCP, p. 829)

For Stewardship of Creation (BCP, p. 259)

Our parish prayer list

Jackie & Russ C., Jeanette, Jim N., Frank & Ruth  
Hennessy, Walter, Vicky & Dave, Lee R., Bill &  
Martha F., & the McAfee family.

Continuing prayers for

Brian E., Jim, Daphne, Rosemary O.,  
the Hentchel family, Pat, Claire, Sandy,  
Rob & Sherry, Jim, Mel, Wayne;  
Diana N., Ashley; Ed & Jean, Kim E., Joe,  
Beverly, Grace, Virginia, and  
Johnny.

Pray for our vestry leaders

Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.

Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.

Class of 2028: Holly P., Tom R., Bonnie S.

Wardens: Bonnie S. and Mark H.;

Treasurer: Sally L.

## June Birthdays

Holly Pate June 2

Steve Botica June 4

Kim Strong June 8

Judy Egan June 10

Peggy Rogers June 10

Drew Hawley June 12

Beth Stahr June 13

Kathy Pittman June 15

Tony Adams June 24

Danielle Ledyard June 27

## June Anniversaries

Holly and David Pate June 7

Elizabeth and Steve Botica June 11

Bonnie and Mark Smith June 12

Beverly and Bob Cantine June 15

Kim and Marc Strong June 16

Donna and Carl Bye June 25

# For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

June 14	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
Acolyte	Holly Pate	Monty Ross	Altar Guild	Jenny Lucas & Dianna Stimpson
Euch. Minister	Mark Hennes	Jane Mocilac	Flower Guild	Rosemary Kitts
Lector	Mark Hennes	Bill Perry	Organist	Jedediah Dahl
Ushers	Andrew Wilkinson	Garry Lucas & Art Stewart	Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Jen Hennes	Bill & Virginia Perry		
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine	Offering Counters	Jean Cardwell & Alice Anderson
Chancellor	Jerry Ploeger	David Baumgardner		

NEXT WEEK

June 21	9:30 a.m.			
Acolyte	Mark Smith		Altar Guild	Donna Bye
Euch. Minister	Jack Lefler		Flower Guild	Betty Martin
Lector	Alice Anderson		Organist	Jedediah Dahl
Ushers	Garry Lucas & Keytha Graves		Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Erllys Ploeger, Jackie Butinelli, et al			
Video	Monty Ross		Offering Counters	Ginny Tolbert & Alice Anderson
Chancellor	Peggy Rogers			

## This Week at Resurrection

Sunday, June 14

Sunday worship, 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Coffee hour after the services in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, June 17

Vestry will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. in the downstairs classroom of the Parish Hall.

Thursday, June 18

Prayers & Squares will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Saturday, June 20

Resurrection Men will meet at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Email Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Becky Bridges:  
rector@episcopalloudon.com or (865) 986-2390.

For urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240

Email Senior Warden Bonnie Smith:  
seniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

Email Junior Warden Mark Hennes:  
juniorwarden@episcopalloudon.com

## Coming Soon @ Resurrection

Sunday, June 21

Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.

Come worship with us at a combined service, which also will be Rev. Becky's last Sunday with us. Please stay for coffee hour to follow.

Saturday, June 27

Daughters of the King will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, June 28

Sunday worship:

Canon Joe Woodfin will be celebrating and preaching at the 8 and 10:30 a.m. services.

Sunday, July 5

In observance of America's 250th birthday, please join us for a BBQ picnic following the 10 a.m. worship service. The church will provide pork, buns, and lemonade. Please see the signup sheet in the Parish Hall to bring sides & desserts. Friends & families are welcome!

# Art & Scripture Reflection

Marc Chagall, *Abraham and the Three Angels*, c. 1960–66, Oil on canvas, Musée National Marc Chagall, Nice, France; MBMC6, © Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris; Photo: Gérard Blot © RMN-Grand Palais.

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.

Aaron Rosen. 2018. 'Hospitality on Trial,' in *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* ed. by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 23.5.2026]  
<https://thevcs.org/hospitality-abraham#hospitality-trial>

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