

sin of the world, have mercy on us; you are
 seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:
 re - ceive our pray'r. For you a - lone are the
 Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
 with the Ho - ly Spi - - - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - - - ther. A - men.

Music © 1984 J Michael Compton.

+ Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

WORD *Please be seated.*

First Lesson *Acts 8:26–40*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.

He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

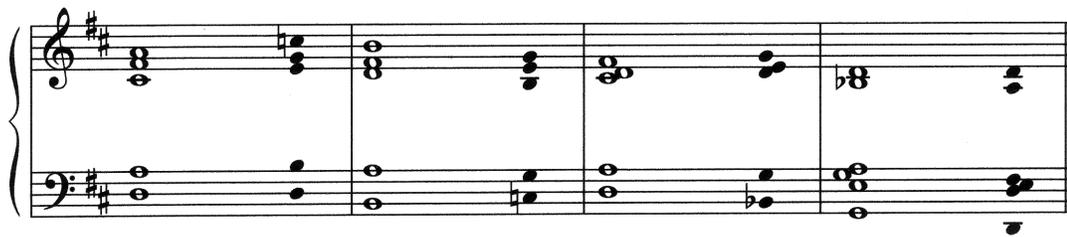
Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24–30



J Michael Compton.

The Psalms are prayers and songs to God from ancient Jewish worship that speak so powerfully to the human condition that they were incorporated into the Bible. Sometimes, they lift up voices of joyful praise. Other times, they speak from the places of deepest lament and sorrow.

My praise is of him in the great as-/sembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who /worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall /praise him: *

"May your heart live for /ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the /LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow be-/fore him.

For kingship belongs to the /LORD; *
he rules over the /nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in /worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall be-/fore him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall /serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for /ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet un-/born *
the saving deeds that he has /done.

Second Lesson 1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

+ **Gospel Acclamation** (*cantor begins, all repeat "Alleluia"*)



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Verse: Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

+ **Gospel Reading** *John 15:1–8*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Rogers

followed by silence

+ Nicene Creed

**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.**

+ Prayers of the People

Place your hands together in prayer and move them back and forth.

(hands at forehead) **God be in my head and in my thinking.**
(hands at mouth) **God be in my mouth and in my speaking.**
(hands at heart) **God be in my heart and in my loving.**
(hands open palms up) **God be in my hands and in my helping. Amen.**

O God, you have promised to hear us when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore we pray with confidence and trust in this Easter season:

Enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and a light to the world.

Breathe new life into your people.
Give us power to embody the teachings of Christ in word and action.

The Nicene Creed is a confession of faith from the fourth century that affirms the two great mysteries of Christian faith: that ultimate reality (God) is a community of love (the Trinity) and that God joins us in our life and suffering (the Incarnation of Jesus). We say it in unity with followers of Jesus around the world and across the ages.

Creator of all, lead us in the ways of justice and peace.
May we respect the dignity of every human being.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to use its resources rightly in the service of others.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.
That they may lead with integrity, courage and compassion.

Bless those whose lives are linked with ours.
May we serve Christ in one another, and love one another as he loves us.

God of hope; comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.
May they know the power of your healing love.

In the midst of strife and divisions amongst us.
May we be instruments of your peace.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.
We commend them to your mercy.

Give comfort to those who mourn.
Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We praise you for Matthew, Beatrice, and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.
May their lives inspire and encourage us.

Risen Lord, you have called us to serve you.
**Grant that we may walk in your presence:
your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills;
It is in your name we pray. Amen.**

+ **Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

TABLE

+ **Offertory**

Let us walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

“Love One Another”

Arthur Maude

Jesus said: “I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.”

John the apostle wrote: “For this is the message you’ve heard from the beginning,
that we should love one another, for love is of God.”

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God,
and he who loves is born of God, for God is love.”

John 13:34, 1 John 3:11, 4:7

+ **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

+ **Sanctus and benedictus**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.**

+ **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

+ **The Breaking of the Bread**

+ **Fraction Anthem**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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+ **Invitation to Communion**

The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus and all those who love him. So come to this table you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet Him here.

Communion

All are welcome at Christ's table. Please come forward to receive communion. If you cannot come forward for communion, please let an usher know and a clergy person will come to you.

We offer bread broken from a common loaf and wine from a common cup. The church teaches that you have received fully if you only receive the bread. If you choose to receive the wine, you are encouraged to drink directly from the common cup rather than to dip.

There are also individually-wrapped gluten-free wafers and a pewter chalice reserved for gluten-free. Please indicate to the clergy if you would prefer this option.

If you would like the prayer team to pray for you, another person or family, or a local or global situation, please come to the side chapel after receiving communion. Please let them know if you would prefer they wear a mask.

+ Post-Communion Prayer

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.

*After we experience this foretaste of
 God's great heavenly banquet, to
 which people from every tribe and
 nation are invited, we are sent
 forward into the world to
 participate in God's healing of all
 creation. When the liturgy ends,
 our lives of service and worship
 continue beyond these doors, shaped
 by how God has met us here.*

SENDING

+ Sending of Eucharistic Visitors (*when requested*)

N., in the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that N., to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

+ Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be strong and of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve the Risen Christ in whom we live and move and have our being. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn

“God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him”

Hymnal #379

+ The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve our God. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!



If you are new to St. Matthew's and would like to learn more about our church, you are invited to come forward immediately after the service for a seven-minute welcome led by Gwen Odney.

All are invited to come downstairs afterwards for Coffee Hour and Dwelling in the Word.

Scripture readings next week (The Sixth Sunday of Easter):

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:24-30

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Scripture readings for Wednesday (The Feast of Saint Philip and Saint James)

Isaiah 30:18-21

Psalm 119:33-40

John 14:6-14

Announcements

Faith Formation

St. Matthew's offers faith formation for all ages each week at 9:15 am during the academic year. For more information on Sunday School or Youth Group, please contact Mia Millares at kids@stmatthewsmn.org. For more information on the Faith Forum, please contact Chris Lilley at chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org. For more information on the Sunday Morning Book Group, please contact Linda López at lindablopez@gmail.com. Our Youth Group will meet next after worship on **Sunday, May 12**.

Nursery

The nursery is open each Sunday. Parents are welcome to drop off their children in the nursery downstairs near the bathrooms starting at 10:15 am.

Faithful Innovation

Faithful Innovation is a diocesan initiative "that invites participants to engage in simple spiritual practices and small experiments to develop deeper relationships with God, fellow faith community members, and their neighbors." After the service **today**, all are invited to have a cup of coffee, then join the group at noon in the library for Dwelling in the Word. Our common text is **Acts 16:6–15**. We will listen to the reading, reflect, and share insights. What catches your attention? What questions does this passage create for you? What do you think God might be saying to you as a group through this passage? If you cannot join the group, feel free to do your own dwelling and email your reflections to Laura Peticara (laura.peticara@gmail.com). At future sessions we will share spiritual stories and take a walk around our beautiful neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact Gwen Odney at gnodney@icloud.com.

Mothers' Tea for the Blue House

After the service **today**, representatives from the Blue House will be selling tickets to The Mothers' Tea on **Saturday, May 11**, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. At this fundraiser, you can enjoy specialty teas (and coffee too), a brunch buffet, and fellowship with other families. Moms, dads, kids, grandparents, and friends are welcome. See blue-house.org/mothers-tea for more information or to reserve tickets online.

Buy Nothing Exchange

The St. Anthony Park Faith Communities are hosting a Buy Nothing Exchange on **Saturday, May 4** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Hampden Park on Raymond Avenue one mile south of our church. You can bring donations for the exchange to church anytime until the day before the event. Accepted donations include: clothing for babies and children; toys for kids of all ages; games of all kinds; fiction books for children, youth, teens, and young adults; non-fiction books for kids of all ages; or school books related to Pre-K–12th grade.

Intergenerational Bingo

Kids and adults of all ages are invited to stay for Coffee Hour after church next **Sunday, May 5** for a lively game of Bingo in our Parish Hall! If you have any questions, contact Mia at kids@stmatthewsmn.org.

Sunday Evening Worship

We will continue to gather on the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 pm. The next service will be Taizé worship on **Sunday, May 5**. All are welcome at this contemplative worship.

Braver Angels on Skill Building

Braver Angels' next session is **Saturday, May 11** starting at 11:30 am and including lunch. We will be learning and practicing the life skill of managing through disagreement, starting with depolarizing ourselves. When exposed to an alternate worldview, have you wished you could do something other than fade into the wallpaper, get in a fight, or just "nicely" acquiesce to the person sharing that view? Come learn a fourth way, a Christian response that builds relationships.

Popcorn Fundraiser for Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church has opened an online pop-up store to sell some Double Good gourmet popcorn, with 50% of each purchase helping them reach their fundraising goal of \$8,000. The store will be open until 5:00 pm on **Monday, April 29**. To order, visit popup.doublegood.com/s/155m8gq9. If you need help ordering, please contact Linda Garrett at 651-216-3125. Thank you for your support!

Prayer list

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Bangladesh.

Prayers: Karen, Leon, Laura, Elizabeth, Kate, Vant, Gift, James and Barbara, Christopher, Kathy, and Corey, Kurt and Nancy, Richard, Wendy, Larry and Pam, Dorothy, Dan, Linda, Larry, Tom and Elaine, Chris and Kristine, Marilyn and Peter, John, Nevin, Judy, Ruth and family, Gloria and Betsy, Kate, Lenny, Jewel, Steve, Sam, Carol and Robyn, Tim, Ken, Pat and Juola, Michael, Don, Michele, Gail, Raquel and family.

Deceased: (*Parish History*) Jessie Kirkwood, Jane Gillmore, John Nicols Haupt, Olga Bowler, Harold C. Van Alstine, Gary Blume, James Arthur Harris, Eldridge Thompson, Daniel James Fillmore, Frank Maloy Anderson, John Edward Shepherd, Jr., Richard Kirkwood, William C. Mathieson.

Spiritual Practice for Easter: Praying for Courage to Be Your Best Self

I end my morning prayers with this entreaty: "Lord, I pray that today you will show me what is right and give me the strength and courage to do it, so that I may be the best version of myself."

Then I visualize what the best version of myself looks like. I see myself being calm, patient, kind, and cheerfully doing the work I have to do. I have found that I remember this exercise during the day, and when I find myself ruminating, procrastinating, or being brusque, I stop myself and say, "Ah, that's not the best version of me." —Ron Matross

Congregational Calendar

Sunday, April 28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:15 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)
- 9:15 am Faith Forum (library)
- 9:15 am Sunday Morning Book Group (Gathering Room)
- 10:30 am Sunday Eucharist (sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:00 noon Faithful Innovation: Dwelling in the Word (library)

Wednesday, May 1

- 12:00 noon Noonday Eucharist (Parish Hall or Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal (sanctuary)

Saturday, May 4

- 9:30 am Centering Prayer (library or Zoom)
- 10:00 am Buy Nothing Exchange (Hampden Park)

Sunday, May 5 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 9:15 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)
- 9:15 am Faith Forum (library)
- 9:15 am Sunday Morning Book Group (Gathering Room)
- 10:30 am Sunday Eucharist (sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Coffee Hour with Intergenerational Bingo (Parish Hall)
- 12:00 noon Crafting and Fellowship (library)
- 5:00 pm Evening Taizé Worship (sanctuary)

All weekdays

- 8:00 am Daily Morning Prayer (Zoom)

For more information about any of these offerings or the Zoom links, please email office@stmatthewsmn.org.

St. Matthew's staff

The Rev. Christopher Rogers, Rector, rector@stmatthewsmn.org

The Rev. Vant Washington, Deacon, deacon@stmatthewsmn.org

MiaLisa McFarland Millares, Director of Children's and Youth Ministry, kids@stmatthewsmn.org

Chris Lilley, Resident for Discipleship and Engagement, chrisl@stmatthewsmn.org

J Michael Compton, Music Director, jmichaelcompton@aol.com

Lars Christensen, Office Manager and Communications Director, office@stmatthewsmn.org

Fariba Sanikhatam, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@stmatthewsmn.org

Wardens

Terese Lewis, Senior Warden, lewiskiehne@gmail.com

Barrett Fisher, Junior Warden, barrettf215@gmail.com

Ministry leaders

Elizabeth O'Toole, Altar Guild

Judy Johnson, Healing Ministry

Marilyn Grantham and Cathy Wilkowske, Acolytes

Gwen Odney, Readers and Prayer Leaders

Laura Bathke, Vergers

Today's worship leaders

Richard Day and Jenny Bach, readers

Elizabeth Hosch and Clara Hosch, prayer leaders

Lynn Eggers, verger

Mike and Linda López, ushers

Chris Hosch, crucifer

Spencer Hosch and Clara Hosch, torchbearers

Heather Halker and Cathy Wilkowske, chalice bearers

Sarah Cole and Sophia Jansen, childcare at playground

Mollie Jenkins and Liam Kiehne, childcare in nursery

Sherry Latty and Laura Peticara, Healing Prayer

Paul Kiehne, live-streaming

Gwen Odney, seven-minute welcome

Amy Fisher, Coffee Hour team coordinator

Martin Anderson and Mike López, counters

Christopher Sibia, cantor

Jenny Bach, Peter Cartford, Lars Christensen, Dave Colwell, Laura Corcoran,
Heather Craig, Elaine Eyre, Kathryn Grambsch, Kristine Granias, Lynn Jenkins, Judy Jones,
Susan Jones, Dave McKenna, Christopher Sibia, and Dave Wilkowske, choir



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

A Neighborhood Church with a Worldwide Community

2136 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 + 651-645-3058 + www.stmatthewsmn.org



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