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A WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION OF  
MAY SHIZUKO OKANO SAKUMA  
July 27, 1929 - July 14, 1992

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July 18, 1992  
Three O'Clock

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Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
1610 South King Street  
Seattle, Washington 98144-2115

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*At the Officiant's bidding the people stand to sing.*

Hymn 657: "Love divine, all loves excelling"

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Officiant:* Let us pray. [*The Collect follows.*]

*People:* Amen.

*The people are seated for the lesson.*

Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-6

*A period of reflective silence follows.*

*The people stand for the hymn and the Gospel.*

Hymn 645: "The King of love my shepherd is"

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-16

*Before:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*After:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

*The text of the Liturgy continues on page 496 in  
The Book of Common Prayer, the people standing.*

Family Acknowledgement

Hymn 207: "Jesus Christ is risen today"

*The text of the Liturgy concludes on page 502 with  
the blessing and dismissal, the people standing.*

*Everyone is invited to the undercroft for refreshments,  
to greet the family, and each other.*

**MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

Officiant

The Reverend Mother Susan Creighton

Organist

Yohko Matsumoto

Reflection

Tama Tokuda

Family Acknowledgement

Steven Sakuma

Ushers

Fran Matsuoka,

Joseph Chihara, Hero Matsuoka,

Jack Nitta, & Kip Tokuda

Uketsuke

Daniel Matsumoto,

Keiko Hart, Tatsuo Kojima, George & Mary Koza,

James Mizuki, Tomio Moruguchi,

& Dorothy & Kenneth Sumida

The Altar Guild of Saint Peter's Church

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MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

At the officiating table, the following persons will be present: The Reverend Mother Susan O'Connell

Hymn 217: "The Lord is with us" (1958)

Officiant: The Lord  
People: And with you  
Officiant: Let us pray  
People: Amen

Family Acknowledgement  
Steven Sakuma

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5  
Lamentations 3:1-6  
Lamentations 3:7-17  
Lamentations 3:18-33  
Lamentations 3:34-40  
Lamentations 3:41-42  
Lamentations 3:43-48  
Lamentations 3:49-54  
Lamentations 3:55-60  
Lamentations 3:61-66  
Lamentations 3:67-74  
Lamentations 3:75-78  
Lamentations 3:79-84  
Lamentations 3:85-90  
Lamentations 3:91-94  
Lamentations 3:95-100  
Lamentations 3:101-104  
Lamentations 3:105-108  
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Lamentations 3:117-120  
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Lamentations 3:989-992  
Lamentations 3:993-996  
Lamentations 3:997-1000

Officiant: The Lord  
People: And with you  
Officiant: Let us pray  
People: Amen

Family Acknowledgement  
Steven Sakuma

Family Acknowledgement

Hymn 207: "Jesus Christ is with us"

The text of the Liturgy continues with the people standing.

Everyone is invited to the undercroft for refreshments to greet the family, and each other.

## Eulogy for May Sakuma

Sakura, sakura

Saku sakura

Chiru sakura

Loosely translated this Japanese poem says:

Cherry blossoms, oh cherry blossoms

Cherry blossoms that bloom

Cherry blossoms that scatter

This is indeed the story of our lives. We receive the opportunity to live, then we pass on. How casually we walked through the years, such precious years. Kathy told me that two days before May died, she wasn't feeling too well and she asked her doctor about the prognosis. Knowing her, he pulled no punches. His reply was, "What if I told you it's life threatening?"

She said, "I wouldn't like it but what can I do?" Next day, she went into a coma and the day after, she passed away. To me, it was heart warming to hear this story because it reassured me that she was herself to the end. She was earthy, spirited. "You can't fire me. I quit!" In essence, that's what she meant. What style!

May had a hearty appetite for life and people. She was such a "people person". On her trips or at home, she talked to all sorts of strangers. In Japan she even approached some famous actors and she asked to take pictures with them, with their arms around her no less. Kathy said, "It's embarrassing." I said, "May how could you be so nervy?" She laughed as she passed out copies of her pictures.

Over the years, we carried on a lively correspondence. Without telling her, I saved some of them. In a letter written on February 1st, 1989, she wrote, "When I drew the drapes this morning and saw all the untouched snow on our walk....I thought about Mom...she loved to clear the walk and even the driveway....the winters were hard and long in the Tottori area and she used to tell me the snow would remind her of her younger days...I wish now that I left her to her pleasures and memories instead of screaming at her to get inside before she suffered an attack of whatever..."

In a letter written last year, she ended a letter with, "I smell the fuki cooking away and it is a comfortable and a homey odor...Isaac will love it...since his mom was a lousy cook...it's not hard to please him...aren't I lucky?"

May, you were impossible. At this stage in life, so many friends are passing away. To comfort myself, I like to think they're getting together up there, wherever. If my George and May are talking or sharing a joke, I can almost hear their hearty laughter.

In the meantime, we try to hold the line down here. We close up the ranks and go forth. But how do we fill the emptiness in life left by a person like May? My life will never be the same. She was truly a gift to me. I should like to thank Isaac, Kathy, and Isamu for sharing May with me.

Here are a few lines from Raymond Carver, a favorite Northwest writer of mine:

"And did you get what you wanted from this life, even so?

Yes, I did....

And what did you want from life?

To call myself beloved, to feel beloved upon this earth."

*Tom Toke*