

# THE CREED

## THE SECOND ARTICLE (PART 1)

### STORY

Death, fighting, and misery surrounded him. Pastor Friedrich Wilhelm Richman was on the battlefield in Corinth, Mississippi. It was 1862, and the United States was involved in a bitter civil war. Richman, a Lutheran pastor serving a parish in Illinois, had been called as chaplain for the 58th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteers of the United States Army—the first LCMS pastor to serve with the military.

Richman wrote of the misery of the battlefield, the heat, lack of water, the diseases, fighting, and dying. Serving with a German regiment, he believed in the Union cause and knew the soldiers needed to hear God's Word. In his diary, he wrote, "At six o'clock this morning I conducted services in the English language preaching a German sermon at six o'clock this evening, using Mark 16:15 (Jesus said: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation") as my text. The soldiers seem to be willing to listen with reverence to the sermon." Pastor Richman began a tradition that continues today with Lutheran chaplains bringing Christ and the Sacraments to soldiers on the battlefield without regard to personal safety or comfort.

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. In your own words, state the Good News referred to in Mark 16:15. *The Good News, the Gospel, is that God loved the world. He sent Jesus to be born as a human, to live, die, and rise again to earn forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation for all people.*
2. What battle did Jesus fight in order to bring the Good News to us? *As true God and true man, Jesus lived a holy life, facing and daily fighting off the devil's temptations. He then died in our place and declared victory over sin, death, and Satan's power on Easter.*
3. Why would a pastor be willing to risk his own life to serve in the military? *A call from God often supersedes issues of safety and comfort.*