Yesterday with exultation

**Yesterday with exultation
joined the world in celebration
of her promised Savior's birth;
yesterday the angel-nation
poured the strains of jubilation
o'er the Monarch born on earth:**

**But today, O deacon glorious,
by thy faith and deeds victorious,
Stephen, champion renowned,
thee we hail who, triumph gaining,
mid the faithless faith sustaining,
first of martyr saints wast found.**

**For the crown that fadeth never
bear thy murderer's brief endeavor;
victory waits to end the strife:
death shall be thy life's beginning,
and life's losing be the winning
of the true and better life.**

**Words: Heri mundus exultavit, Adam of St. Victor (12th century);
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1863 and Hymns Ancient and Modern
Music: Evangelists (Harmonischer Liederschatz, Frankfurt, 1738)
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