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THE EMERGENCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

The question of whether life exists beyond death remains one of the most pertinent of our existence, and theologians continue to address what relevance the answer has for our life in the present. In this book, William J. Hoye employs the phenomenon of emergence – the way higher forms of existence arise from a collection of simpler interactions – as a framework for understanding and defending the concept of Eternal Life, showing how it ‘emerges’ from our present life, our human longing for fulfillment and happiness, and our striving for knowledge of reality. Hoye uses the work of Karl Rahner and Thomas Aquinas to explore questions concerning suffering, the ultimate relevance of morality, and how the fundamental idea of responsibility changes when viewed eschatologically. Contemporary reasons for denying an afterlife are examined critically and extensively. This book will be of great interest to those studying systematic theology, theological anthropology, and Catholic theology.

WILLIAM J. HOYE is Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Münster. He is the author of many books, including most recently *Die Wirklichkeit der Wahrheit* (2013); *Tugenden. Was sie wert sind, warum wir sie brauchen* (2010); *Liebgewordene theologische Denkfehler* (2006); and *Die mystische Theologie des Nicolaus Cusanus* (2004).

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*To
my friend "Mitch,"
Alden F. Mitchell*

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