Contents

Note on Transliteration ix
Introduction xi

1. Jesus as God’s Messenger in the Qur’an 1
2. A Qur’anic Perspective on the Eschatological Role of Jesus 22
3. Islamic Eschatology and Jesus as a Sign of the Hour 38
4. The Hadith and Jesus’s Eschatological Descent 55
5. Speculations about Jesus’s Return 71
6. The Mahdi and Jesus as Allies against al-Dajjal (the Antichrist) 84
7. Literalist Approaches to Jesus’s Eschatological Role in Islamic Theology 100
8. Symbolic, Allegorical, and Other Interpretive Approaches to Jesus’s Eschatological Role 112
9. Jesus’s Descent and Theologies of Muslim-Christian Cooperation 134
   Conclusion 157

Appendix 1. Fethullah Gülen on Jesus and Interfaith Dialogue 164
Appendix 2. Excerpts from Muhammed Hamdi Yazır 176
Acknowledgments 183
Notes 185
Bibliography 203
Index 215